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THE
H I S T O R Y
OF
MISS SOMMERVILE.
VOL. I

THE

HISTORY

THE

OF

MISS SOMMERVILLE

OF

Written by a Lady

MISS SOMMERVILLE

IN TWO VOLUMES



LONDON

Printed for Newman and Co. 15, St. Paul's Church-Yard

MDCCLXIX

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OF
MISS SOMMERVILE.

Written by a LADY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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LONDON,

Printed for NEWBURY and CARNAN, N^o. 65,
the North-Side of St. Paul's Church-Yard.

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MISS SOMMERSET

Written by J. J. J. J.

IN TWO VOLUMES



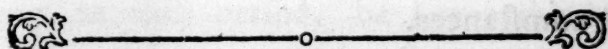
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MDCCCXXXV



THE
HISTORY
OF
MISS SOMMERVILE.



LETTER I.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

Holbead, Thursday, Oct. 20.

THE perverse humour of the winds
T still continues ; and it is to very
little purpose that your brother
and I have exposed ourselves to ninety
miles rough travelling over mountains
no less dreary than tremendous, and val-
lies devoid of every pleasing vestige of
fertility.

VOL. I.

B

But

But you tell me, this is not the season for gay scenes ; and, that even St. James's Park is stripp'd of its loveliness, and wears a dismal winterly aspect.—Judiciously observed. But, my good Harry, you, who retain possession of very many blessings, by no means inferior to the beauties of the spring, cannot be insensible of the cruel disparity of our present circumstances.

The play-houses are open for your reception, where you may abundantly please both the eye and the ear ; you are within the reach of elegant and entertaining converse ; are not excluded the circles of friendship ; nor unhappily banished the smiles of the fair. You are not confined to the narrow precincts of an ill-contrived inn ; can vary your prospects at will ; nor is your sight offended, or sleep interrupted, by the boisterous element that is so perpetually breaking in upon us.

This impatient-headed youth !— But he shall not find me so complying for the

the future. At Parkgate we had a few rational companions ; — but here, not even the consolation of one fellow-sufferer to cheer our drooping spirits. — Such an evening have we passed ! You would compassionate me, were I capable of describing it. — But I hear the rattle of carriages. — Reviving sound ! It must be dreadful company indeed that would not, at this period, be acceptable. — I will endeavour to steal a view of them as they alight.

On my word, no bad appearance ! — One — two, — male beings ; — a female, — young and handsome, by Jupiter ! — another, past her meridian I fear ; — but no matter : — what are externals, hey, philosopher ? — A cultivated mind is not incompatible with an unengaging form ; and time, that hard-hearted spoiler of blooming graces, lends a willing hand to improve intellectual ones.

To the elderly lady I will, therefore, attach myself, and Bob is best qualified

to amuse the green in years. His want of fire may, perhaps, be tolerated by some gentle sentimental female, just emerging into life, and as yet *a stranger to quadrille and man* ; but will ever prove an impediment to more lively, more intelligent connexions.

It must be my business to introduce both him and myself to these strangers ; for such is his indolence, or shyness of disposition, that he would mope for ever in retirement, rather than shove himself, notwithstanding the traveller's privilege, into any company, without previous parade or invitation.

What is genuine politeness, innate benevolence, or even an extravagant share of literary knowledge, when compared with effrontery, finesse, and vivacity ? What, I say, but pretty lumpy possessions, secretly despised by the ladies, and openly ridiculed by the gentlemen of this brilliant age ?

Friday noon.

I Believe you are not personally acquainted with the earl of Kennington. His whimsical character, however, is by no means unknown to you; affectedly wise, and foppishly fantastical. — Would fate had cast him on some other shore! — But his daughter, niece, and beloved companion, may, perhaps, compensate his absurdity.

I had not an opportunity of saluting them last night; but as his lordship is an early riser (and you know my custom), we were upon the most friendly terms imaginable before the breakfast hour arrived.

I would have retired when the ladies entered, but his lordship prevented me.

“ We must unite, we must unite,
 “ (cried he with a twirl of his hand) for
 “ our common emolument. Relations
 “ are the most insipid companions in na-
 “ ture. The girls will thank me for pro-
 “ curing them gallants, and I can only
 “ lament that you have not a sister to

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“ present us in turn.— But your friend,
 “ let him be produced ; we will never se-
 “ parate more on this side the water.”

Bob was far from being delighted with his lordship's proposal : “ You are an
 “ odd fellow, (said he peevishly to me)
 “ and never happy but when forming
 “ connections that are disagreeable to me.
 “ Your Parkgate friends ———”

“ Were very decent people, Bob, tho'
 “ not exactly suited to your taste :—but
 “ be not dissatisfied ; for I promise you,
 “ if, upon trial, you disapprove of what
 “ I have now done, I will never more
 “ attempt to constrain your inclination.”

Down we went.

Abundance of lively things were circu-
 lated at breakfast ; but I will give you the
 figures previous to the conversation.

Lord Kennington is somewhat turned
 of threescore, though the gaiety of his
 dress, and a pretty youthfulness in his
 behaviour, are calculated to convey a very
 different opinion. His person and un-
 derstanding,

MISS SOMMERVILE.

derstanding, in their natural state, I apprehend to be far from despicable, however justly his vanity may come under that denomination.— But you will see him best in his own light ; his language is picturesque, and, occasionally introduced, will paint him to your imagination in stronger colours than the most minute description.

Mr. Shugburgh is a distant relation of his lordship's, and his constant companion. The early part of his life was spent at sea. He has much more good-nature than refinement ; enters into his friend's jest and his own with equal heartiness ; and so happily blends the roughness and benevolence of his disposition, that you are at a loss to determine which is most valuable.

Lady Sarah Kennington appears much older than she really is ; a misfortune occasioned no less by the badness of her complexion than the *hardness* of her aspect : no trace of softness or ingenuouf-

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ness is there to be found, yet is it not wholly uninformed; a variety of little passions successively agitate it, nor is self-sufficiency the least considerable.

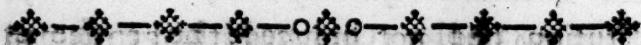
Miss Kennington, the niece, is a most lovely young woman; nor does she appear to resemble her *great* relations less in her mental than corporeal features: of this you will most certainly be convinced, when I tell you, that Bob's sentiments and her's flow in unison.—How fruitlessly has he, hitherto, sought his kindred soul in a feminine breast! nor did I conceive it possible for him to be successful, unless he visited the Abyssinian court. If the jewel should at last be found,—wonderful!—then, indeed, would good be produced out of evil. Nor ought we, Harry, to be too much discomposed by perverse incidents in general; as untoward beginnings frequently precede happy terminations.

If

If the infirmity of your brother's constitution had not induced the gentlemen of the faculty to recommend his native air ;—if we had not been wind-bound a whole week at Parkgate ;—if the company we were there cast in had not proved disagreeable to Bobby, and incited him to drag me, most reluctantly, to this ungainly spot ;—or if the packet could have failed immediately upon our arrival ;—had any one of these *ifs* failed, or taken place improperly, this miracle of her sex had, in all probability, escaped us. But, in short, I never was a conjurer respecting futurity, or I should have improved many incidents, and guarded against many misadventures, that have fallen to my lot, even since I have had the happiness of ranking myself amongst the number of your most affectionate friends.

J. B.

L E T.



LETTER II.

The same to the same.

Holbead, Oct. 24.

UNCHANGED the winds, unchanged our situation ; but I shall trouble you no longer with complaints. Though circumscribed in our steps, our minds are free ; and unless the fault be in ourselves, we may pass our time very tolerably.

My Lord is the life of the company : I, you must know, take the lead of your brother in his good graces. Old heads upon young shoulders, he confessed to me in a short *tête-à-tête*, is his aversion. —
 “ Youth (cried he) is the season for
 “ gaiety ; and whatever is unnatural
 “ must be displeasing.” Poor gentleman !
 how little acquainted is he with himself !

“ There

“ There is that fool, my niece Sally,
 “ for example (continued he); she is
 “ scarcely eighteen, yet must be capti-
 “ vated with sentiment; preferring the
 “ care-struck brow of meditation to all
 “ the bewitching graces of vivacity. But
 “ her father was the very quintessence of
 “ absurdity.— He refused a mitre rather
 “ than abandon his flock; and married
 “ a woman without a shilling, because
 “ he loved her. —He is dead, however;
 “ and she is returned upon her relations
 “ hands, without any prospect, notwith-
 “ standing the good chance my want of
 “ a son gave her of being my LADYSHIP.
 “ —The girl I keep out of charity, and
 “ should not doubt of disposing of her
 “ to advantage, if she would please to
 “ brighten up a little: she is not a bad
 “ figure, Mr. Bradshaw, but wants ani-
 “ mation.”

Pretty creature, how I pity her! Slight,
 indeed, must be her dependance on such
 a shuttle-cock. Lady Sarah is cruelly

supercilious towards her in her behaviour, from reasons too obvious; but it requires some degree of understanding, as well as goodness of heart, to behold superior excellence with complacence.

We are to have a concert this evening. A greasy flute, the property of my Lord's postilion, in conjunction with Lady Sarah's guitar, is to compose the instrumental part. — The vocal performers are Lady Sarah, Miss Kennington, Mr. Shugburgh, and my Lord. — Yes, Harry, I am so hardy as to repeat, notwithstanding the arch ridicule that plays about your mouth, that we have twenty little schemes of amusement in store, of a similar stamp with what I now communicate, as we wisely determine to make the most of life we can; and by our mutual good-humour, supply every mortifying deficiency to which our present situation exposes us. — Where there is humility and benevolence, there will be happiness. I pity the heart that from refinement has lost all

all capacity for delight, no less than I despise it when polished out of its sincerity.

Bob's spirits are brushed up surprisingly.—He bids defiance to the horrors in Miss Kennington's presence, and in her absence has not leisure to fall into them ; — her idea, — the contemplation of her dear idea finding him constant employment : but will not the remedy prove, at the long run, of worse consequence than the disease ?

In truth, he is far gone already, though unperceived by himself, in the labyrinth of love ; — the path pleasant, the winding imperceptible ; but to return would be the difficulty ; nor can I, unexperienced as I am in such soft matters, lend him much assistance.—Besides, it is cruel on many occasions to undeceive us.—Give the child his rattle, and the madman his crown, — I will neither rob the one nor the other ; consequently, Harry, your brother's inclinations (unless most egregiously

egregiously erroneous, will not be condemned, or opposed, by his and your affectionate

FRANK BRADSHAW.



LETTER III.

Miss FENNINGTON to Miss CAREY.

Holibeard, Sunday, Oct. 23.

ALAS, my dear friend, you are greatly deceived in the opinion you entertain of my happiness ! It is true, I am not only delivered from every apprehension of pecuniary distress, but advanced to a state of affluence beyond my most flattering expectations.

But have I not many cruel remembrances to support ?—My beloved, my valuable father, is he not lost to me for ever ? — My tender, my indulgent mother,—her circumstances have compelled
her

her to forsake me ;— and that blessed peace and tranquility I was wont to enjoy, have fled my breast, never more to return.—Return ! oh how impossible !— can peace and tranquility dwell — but no matter.—Yet indeed, my dear, a dependant is by no means an eligible condition, especially when aggravated, as mine is, by the capriciousness and ill-nature of my temporary benefactors.

I will not, however, oppress you with complaints. Take a genuine description of my circumstances ; and should you discover pride and perverseness, rather than real calamity, to be the source of my discontent, set me right, I beseech you, not be sparing of reproof.

I need not touch upon the dire particulars of that affliction and distress my mother and I experienced, during the first three succeeding months after my father's decease.

Conscious of the necessity of casting about for some means for future provision, and.

and unable to determine which would be most salutary, we passed our days and nights in equally unavailing anxiety and lamentation. The small sum that remained, by its visible decrease, at length, however, roused us to the resolution of trying our interest with our friends.

My mother's family were willing to receive her as a sharer in their limited fortunes, provided my father's relations would vouchsafe to bestow some consideration upon me. How gladly would I have submitted to the narrowest circumstances, to have avoided a fatal separation from my only parent!—It is, however, past, and I must be satisfied.

Application was immediately made to Lord Kennington, consented to take me under his protection with a much better grace than was expected.—The parting—Well, that too is over, and shall be forgotten.

I arrived in the evening at his Lordship's.—How my poor heart beat with
7
painful

painful apprehensions. — I sent in my name. — Humility was no stranger to me in theory, but practically I had seldom had occasion to know it.

Mr. Shugburg instantly appeared. — He beheld me a few moments in silence. — His features bespoke the utmost kindness. — “ You are welcome (said he),
 “ my little friend (with an agreeable
 “ warmth), kindly welcome to your new
 “ home; and if your appearance has
 “ but the same effect upon his Lord-
 “ ship’s heart it has had on mine, you
 “ will have no reason to be dissatisfied
 “ with his reception of you.”

My tears — he must understand their meaning — “ He is, my dear, most sin-
 “ gularly humane.” — And as we entered her Ladyship’s dressing-room, where the father and daughter were engaged at backgammon, he pressed my hand with compassionate significance.

Lady Sarah was too attentive to the game, to pay any regard to my entrance.

—She had the box in her hand, obtained an advantage of consequence, and begged my Lord, who snatched up his glass in order to survey your miserable friend, to mind what he was about, and not deprive her of the pleasure of conquering him at his own weapons, for a purpose that would keep cool till he was at leisure to pursue it.

Mr. Shugburgh was chagrined.—“Be seated, miss;” said he, leading me to a chair: “You and I, you see, must learn to submit to the higher powers.”

Happily for me, her Ladyship’s good success did not forsake her, and in a short time she came off victorious.

“Now, Mr. Shugburg (said my Lord, rising and advancing towards us), let me make my peace with you, by a proper reception of that present you have prepared for me.—Hah! (viewing me through his glass) upon my word, it is very prettily contrived; only the polish, the polish, my friend, seems

I “not

“not altogether so, high as one could wish.—Lady Sarah, have you no curiosity respecting your future companion?”

“La! my Lord (cried she), you are so hurrying.”—A cold salute was all she was pleased to bestow.

“Your name, pretty one?” resumed his Lordship.—Idle demand! for before I could reply, he added, as recollecting himself, “Oh Sally!—And so, Miss Sally, you have the courage to become an adventurer, under my auspices, to countries yet unknown.—Your little heart though, I suppose, is not without its alarms.”

Oh Dolly! never was being more oppressed!—This cruel levity!—The child of so recently deceased, and so injured a brother, to be so treated!—I burst into tears, to the great astonishment and offence of my noble relations.

“Lady Sarah! Mr. Shugburgh!” demanded his Lordship with an affected

stare of amazement. — “ What have
 “ I said ? Is either my accent or
 “ countenance so tremendous as to oc-
 “ casion this ? ” — But, turning care-
 lessly upon his heel, “ These are ear-
 “ ly days ; we shall, perhaps, come to
 “ a right understanding at some future
 “ period.”

You may be certain my confusion and
 distress was rather augmented than dimi-
 nished by this unkind speech.—All my
 efforts were vain, and agonies, I fear
 proud agonies, shook my very soul.

Mr. Shugburgh’s eyes betrayed the
 most humane sympathy. How soothing
 every shadow of tenderness, to the suf-
 fering heart !—My Lord and Lady were
 at length so considerate as to withdraw.

Mr. Shugburgh, the instant he per-
 ceived we were alone, used many pathet-
 ic arguments to comfort and console
 me.

“ I know not why it is (said he), but
 “ however rough my nature, or boister-

“ ous

"ous my education, I am perfectly ef-
 "feminate upon these occasions.— But,
 "my dear Miss Kennington, do not
 "suffer your change of condition to
 "depress you beyond measure.—Re-
 "member from what hand your chas-
 "tisements are derived ;—it is ours to
 "submit.—You may at all times com-
 "mand my best services.—I loved your
 "father ; I cannot, therefore, do other
 "than love and pity his defenceless off-
 "spring.—My friend has his peculiari-
 "ties, Lady Sarah her little odd fancies,
 "but you will not find it difficult to
 "please them, when once you are ac-
 "quainted with their dispositions. The
 "misfortune is, that an unhappy preju-
 "dice against your mother, will prevent
 "your establishing yourself so immedi-
 "ately in their affections as you other-
 "wise would ;—but you seem to have
 "no small share of understanding, and
 "will make the best of a disagreeable
 "business."

Is he not a good creature?—Oh! my friend, how superior are the feelings of humanity to—— But I will forbear.

So soon as I was somewhat composed, I begged this worthy man would acquaint my Lord and Lady, that I was impatient to obtain their forgiveness of my folly.—They received my message graciously, condescended to say a few obliging things, and the supper-hour passed away with tolerable satisfaction.

But I labour under one great mortification.—I am compelled to participate Lady Sarah's apartment, to which restraint alone my long silence has been owing: for, notwithstanding all my endeavours, I could never meet with a proper opportunity of exercising my pen.—For the necessity I was under till this time, of making her privy to all I wrote, was exactly the same thing as a final prohibition.

We remained only three days in London after my arrival, and are now at
Holihead,

Holihead, waiting for a wind to convey us to Dublin ; and though our journey afforded no important matter, I believe I shall have it in my power to divert you from hence. Lady Sarah — But I can no more at present.

Monday Morn.

Behold me once more at your devotion. — But before I begin with her Ladyship (as I think myself pretty safe), I will charge you with one important commission.

I beg you will endeavour to see my dear mother as soon as possible, after this reaches you, and tell her how alive I am to every dutiful and affectionate sentiment ; but that since her circumstances are limited, almost in an equal degree with my time for writing, I will double tax your friendship, and make you the channel of our correspondence.

To you I will remit my every wish and adventure, and she must be satisfied with receiving them at second-hand ; for

I dare believe, that there is no fault I could commit, that would be more heinous in the sight of these *relations* than being detected in duly honouring my mother, notwithstanding it is a divine and indispensable command. — Intreat her, if possible, to lose her sense of the calamity we have sustained, in the pleasing reflection of the glorious advantages it has been productive of to that best of husbands and of fathers. — The subject is too tender to be dwelt upon; therefore, my good girl, in one word, I beseech you to use your best endeavours to console her; — and may heaven defend us from repining at its will! — A moment's recollection, and I will resume my pen.

I would have told you, but was interrupted, that Lady Sarah is far from being dissatisfied with her present situation. — She is fallen in love, my dear, with a man by no means eligible in my sight; but that you will say is very little to the purpose.

His

His figure, I must acknowledge, is in his favour ; well-proportioned, easy and genteel : my objection lies against his manners and conversation, as they are, indeed, by much too airy and volatile to please my antiquated taste. Bred in sober retirement, I can but ill reconcile myself to polite irony, and unmeaning adulation.

Lady Sarah proclaims him unexceptionable : the finest, charmingest fellow she was ever acquainted with, and the most entertaining ; nor is she happy one moment unless chattering with, or of, her admired Mr. Bradshaw.

My want of vivacity excludes me from the honour of her Ladyship's confidence ; but she has a woman every way qualified for so important a trust ; and I hope she will at length consign me to some other apartment, to prevent my proving an impediment to her favourite subject with her favourite companion.

Mr.

Mr. Bradshaw has a friend, for whose sake it seems he has undertaken this voyage, the very reverse of himself, who is uncommonly assiduous to oblige and amuse me. His health is in a declining state. An ugly cough, Dolly, too plainly indicates an approaching consumption.

It is melancholy to behold any one withering in their bloom ; but more especially where there is so great an appearance of worth, as in this young gentleman.

Lady Sarah detests him for his stupidity.—How misjudging ! how unfeeling ! —He is, my dear, only detached from the idle gaieties of a life, that, in all human probability, he cannot long enjoy ; consequently, has a turn for the most serious, the softest reflections.

My mind, you are sensible, is aptly calculated to enter into such sentiments. We naturally retire from the interruption of our gayer friends.—He listens to the
sad

sad tale of my misfortunes with visible attention and sympathy ;—and I, in return, have an ear for— But I had best throw aside my pen until I have shook off the present dejection of my heart, and not affect you unnecessarily.

If I should have an opportunity of sending this letter in the evening, I will not add to the length of it, only to caution you to secrete that part of it relative to Mr. Fleetwood from mamma, as you may very easily do, in the manner I have wrote it. I would not alarm her with groundless fancies ; and, perhaps, she might imagine that my affection is in danger, where my compassion alone is concerned.

Adieu !—You are discreet, and will neither expose the mother or daughter to needless mortification.

L E T.



LETTER IV.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

*Holbead, Oct. 29,
Hard gales fall in our face.*

I Cannot give you an idea of the general satisfaction that prevailed in our little assembly the other evening: every one seemed to communicate, and in the same instant imbibe delight.

The dejection of Miss Kennington's countenance gave place to a thousand nameless graces; — the vanity of my Lord's heart abundantly overflowed; — Mr. Shugburgh's honest nature warmly participated his friends joy; — Bob was elevated out of himself; — Lady Sarah's features wore a kind of ambiguous meaning, that might easily be mistaken for pleasure; — and as to your humble servant,

vant, words are too poor to speak his feelings.

It must, however, be acknowledged, that we did not attain this summit of happiness without encountering some difficulties. — Lady Sarah's guitar, when produced, wanted a couple of strings; — trying circumstance! — irremediable evil! — negligent servants the greatest of calamities! — when, beyond our best hopes, the landlord having learnt our distress, accommodated us with a small violin, that had been left in his hands by an itinerant fidler to supply some deficiency of cash, which, by the dexterity of a certain acquaintance of yours, proved a very pretty succedaneum; and Mr. Shugburgh, with much humour, though little judgment, upon half a dozen glasses rendered himself no inconsiderable auxiliary.

We had congratulated ourselves, however, but a few moments on our good-fortune, before we received a second alarm.

alarm. In the same box with her Ladyship's music books had been deposited a bottle of stuff for taking stains out of mahogany, purchased only two or three hours before their leaving London; — and, oh sad to tell! — was broken in the carriage, and had destroyed the choicest compositions.

My Lord was infinitely chagrined; not a favourite song undamaged. — Where the words were perfect the notes were effaced, and *vice versa*. — Some perverse star, he was certain, predominated, and it was in vain to oppose its influence.

“ Perverse star, quotha! (cried Mr. Shugburgh) — pettish wills! — Here's the Beggars Opera; it is not planet-struck, I'll warrant you. — Come, Mr. Violin, give us The Modes of the Court.”

My Lord's eyes sparkled approbation. “ We will be content (said he); these unornamented tunes best suit our lame instruments. We will go through
“ with

“ with them character-wise, — I myself
 “ will sing Peachum ; Sally shall do jus-
 “ tice to Polly ;—you Mr. Gaiety (alias
 “ Frank Bradshaw), shall be our Mack-
 “ heath ;—Mr. Shugburgh will enter in-
 “ to the merits of Lockit ;—and if we
 “ could but have mustered up a decent
 “ Lucy, Lady Sarah should have digni-
 “ fied Diana Trapes.—I stand rebuked,
 “ (added he, with an affected shrug of
 “ his shoulders), your displeasure is just
 “ (she grinn’d most horribly upon him) ;
 “ but you have too much good nature
 “ to deny us your assistance : we should
 “ be nothing without you.”

I whispered a few pretty things. —
 Their effect rewarded my pains. — I love
 to communicate pleasure when it may be
 done so cheaply : — the magic of a well-
 timed compliment is irresistible. — Soft
 believing souls ! they little conceive by
 what motives we are frequently actuated.
 — We lively fellows bear all before us,
 nor has her Ladyship’s breast received

an unfavourable impression of your friend's deservings.

Mr. Shugburgh was very drole in his part, my Lord entertaining, and Miss Kennington unspeakably engaging. Such a voice ! Harmony's self ! Her features as expressive as beautiful !

Lady Sarah was all sprightliness, peculiarly just in every malicious or revengeful stroke, and most feelingly breathed her love of Mackheath. Polly, it was plain, had another object in view ; but the hero was not exceptious, and all went smoothly on.

Bobby touched now the violin, and now the flute, judiciously ; his eyes, indeed, would sometimes mislead his attention, but he recovered himself very gracefully ; and though the moral of the piece cannot be defended, the satire is admirable ; and, every thing considered, I do not think we could have hit upon any one composition that would so effectually have answered our purpose.

But

But you are heartily weary of the small-talk with which my letters have for some time been replete ; and if wishes could waft us to the Hibernian shore, we might instantly spread our sails.

And are you sure the evil would then be remedied ? Cities and trifles are by no means incompatible ; nor would folly be aught than folly, however rich the soil from which it was produced.

But I have news for you, even from this remote corner of the earth, that will in some measure dispel your dissatisfaction.

We were most agreeably surpris'd this morning.—Yet, by your leave, sir, I shall not resist the thrifty spirit that now predominates, but reserve the whole matter for a future epistle.

Good bye to you ; make it as easy as you can to your curiosity ; for, positively, I will have my humour. —Bye, Harry. Ha, ha, ha !



LETTER V.

The same to the same.

Oct. 30.

HERE you have me again, Harry, this 30th day of October; and probably both my letters may reach you at the same time. — You may, without witchcraft, guess the reason.

What, quite offended? — You had better let the matter blow off its own way. — Remember how greatly you are in my power. — Your hand — good, good — and now for the news.

We were, I told you, most agreeably surprised the other morning by the arrival of Mr. Finly, who is hurrying to Dublin, with all possible expedition, to attend his grand-father in his last moments.

Bob

Bob was perfectly in raptures.—His beloved friend, his quondam school-fellow, to be restored to him at a period so unpromising, was prodigious!—and never was there more heart-felt congratulations than they experienced upon the occasion; intermixed, nevertheless, with due pauses of sorrow, for having been so long separated.

I need not inform you, who are so well acquainted with my disposition, that I am neither sour nor phlegmatic, yet equally free from your very fine, your very pathetic sensibilities.

In fact, I am a kind of laughing philosopher; and unless the matter is highly consequential, seldom suffer my countenance to contract a gloom, or admit sorrow to steal upon my heart.

I have long since tasted life, or my vanity deceives me, with tolerable justice; and as I never found a sweet without its alloy of bitter, so I am convinced even

the most bitter draught has its attenuating sweetness. When a satisfaction unexpectedly reaches me, I do not, like this pair of friends, deny myself the full enjoyment of it, by contemplating or calculating the loss I may have sustained in the intermediate time; for you must know, I much question if they themselves have yet settled it in their own breasts, whether the misfortune of not having met sooner, or the felicity of their present meeting, runs most in the superlative.

On the other hand, when I find a mortification inevitable, I instantly set to work upon it; and it must be of a most singular contexture indeed, if I do not in a great measure transform it. For example:

In the last visit I made at Blackheath, I found your conversation peculiarly pleasing; —nor did I for some time attend to the ill-natured industry of a seemingly friendly monitor, that incessantly

santly whispered me, it was a pleasure I must soon forego.

Stung to the quick at being so long disregarded, the whisper was swelled into a deep hoarse note, and so roughly saluted my mental ear, that I was for a moment utterly overcome by it:—but, recollecting myself, I immediately subdued this enemy of my peace. “Begone, “ (cried I) thou worst of fiends; can it “ be any reason, because a blessing is slid- “ ing through my fingers, that I should “ not taste it most palpably?—Nay, so “ far from seeking an allay, ought not my “ sense of it from that very circumstance “ to be infinitely augmented?—and, in- “ stead of suggesting the cruel remem- “ brance of approaching evil, would it “ not have been kind to sooth me with “ the glad hope of re-enjoying it at some “ future happy period?—I will, however, “ most effectually defeat thy little malice, “ by cherishing so benign a ray.” I did so; the whole prospect insensibly brightened.

The thick gathering fog of discontent gradually disappeared; till at length my imagination, as if by enchantment, presented me a new face of things, and gave my departure the appearance of only the first step towards my return.

You may laugh, if you please, at my system of philosophy; but believe me, Harry, it is the most invaluable of secrets; for with a single touch I cause even Calamity to smile. You will not deny but it is the interest of mortality to remove itself to the utmost possible distance from whatever pains it.— Our natures have a kind of double susceptibility, in spite of ourselves: the delightfulest sense of pleasure, and the most acute pang of affliction, is equally spontaneous:— but as we are happily blessed with a rational and distinguishing faculty, we are capable no less of moderating the one, than mitigating the other.

In the most trying exigencies, I grant you this power is sometimes over-borne;
but,

but, is it not astonishing when we suffer petty evils to debilitate our minds, and tinge our best enjoyments? I do insist upon it, if freedom of will is ours in any instance, it cannot fail us here : and am not I myself a living proof of the force of custom, and efficacy of resolution, in conquering every peevish, unsocial, and dolorous inclination?—But, if you please, we will return to the good company.

We are greatly multiplied within these three days. The gay, the giddy widow Bateman, having spun out her period of felicity to the utmost, is impatiently detained on this side the water, some business of the utmost importance to her interest requiring her attendance on the first meeting of the parliament. She has not been so little-minded as to guard against misfortune ; and, should her delay be productive of consequences fatal to that interest, can console herself with reflecting upon pleasures she had too much spirit to forego.

Her sister, Miss Turner, neither young, beautiful, nor engaging, treads the same idle round; and only

— asks the gods to give

The mighty blessing whilst she lives, to live.

I have no small reason to apprehend I shall have my hands full. Is it not amazing, that in a country where men are so plentiful, and mixed companies so general, that these ladies cannot help making a fellow of your friend's turn, of such flattering consequence to them?

The widow, Miss Turner, and Lady Sarah, are already within an ace of pulling caps upon my account. — Obliging creatures! — yet, notwithstanding the glow of gratitude that warms my heart, I would neither dye for, nor live with, the one or the other of you.

Lady Sarah, indeed, has charms that are almost irresistible. — Forty thousand pounds,

pounds, my boy, is an important fun ; but if her person was as lovely as it is in reality disgusting, her mind would prove a sufficient antidote against every favourable impression.

What pity it is, that instead of adorning an unamiable outside, which, by the bye, is only lighting up its defects, that these ladies, whose sole pleasure is conquest, so totally disregard the culture of their understandings and improvement of their tempers ! — Good nature can soften even the most rugged set of features ; and what heart may not be won by intellectual accomplishments ?

Miss Kennington is so perfectly unassuming, and so artlessly engaging, that she would obtain in one instant, though her figure was as little eligible as her cousin's, what the labour of years could never procure her : — I mean admiration.

Had the hussy been ever so well instructed respecting the nicety and caprice of male hearts, she could not more judiciously

ciously conduct herself ; for, by disclaiming all pretensions to power, she becomes irresistible.

The elegance of her sentiments, the beautiful propriety of her manners, the softness, the gentleness of her disposition, the soundness, the delicacy of her judgment, in preferring the worthy Bob to his rattling faucy friend, are charms that could not fail to please, though her eyes were deprived of their lustre, her cheek of its bloom, and her whole countenance of its various striking graces.—Yes, Harry, I consider the preference of your brother to me as the touch-stone of her merit.—Minds seek like minds :—and is there a character on earth more unexceptionable than Bob's ? —The woman that betrays an approbation of him, does honour to her own sensibility ; for a light, a fantastical, an uninformed, or in any wise unworthy bosom must be incapable of receiving a due impression of his value.—In a word, Miss Kennington is the
very

very being a man would chuse to unite himself to for life, by promising him permanent felicity : but where the wish extends not beyond the passing of an idle hour, your Lady Sarahs and your Widows answer the purpose more effectually ; their spirit and finesse finding you employment, at the same time that their folly and vanity excite your mirth.

Mr. Finly too much resembles your brother in taste and sentiments to be unmindful of Miss Kennington's worth.— He is, indeed, evidently attached by it, and Bob is as evidently alarmed ; his countenance is too honest not to bear testimony to the feelings of his heart.

My Lord, who values himself not a little upon his discernment, drew me aside this morning, and with the utmost exultation cried, “ The jade has done the
 “ business ; it is just as I could wish ;
 “ Mr. Finly is the most desirable of all
 “ ances.—I little suspected her capable
 “ of such a conquest, continued he ; but
 “ youth

“ youth is a powerful charm, and inno-
“ cence strangely affects us.—Had she
“ been more degagée, more vivacious, as
“ I long laboured to render her, she had
“ been disregarded by the very man on
“ earth who best merits her esteem.—
“ Happy incorrigibility ! I will hence-
“ forth leave nature to its own operati-
“ ons :—nothing can equal it.”

Unfortunately, Bob over-heard every syllable.—He retired in confusion, — most significantly entreating me, by his eyes, to follow him : I guessed the business, and prepared myself accordingly.

But how unequal my preparation to the encounter !—The anguish, the distress of his countenance is not to be described.

“ I am astonished, said I, to find you
“ in this pitiable condition : what can oc-
“ casion —”

“ Frank, Frank, (replied he, with
“ great earnestness) forbear to trifle with
“ me ; my admiration of Miss Kenning-
“ ton cannot have escaped you : so ac-

“ com-

“ accomplished, so irresistibly accomplished,
 “ how natural my conduct ! But Mr.
 “ Finly has the advantage of me in every
 “ respect, and will rob me of the most
 “ valuable of acquisitions, an amiable,
 “ gentle, and sweetly informed heart.”

I would have persuaded him his apprehensions were groundless ; but he interrupted me : “ Do not attempt to impose upon me (cried he) ; their good liking is reciprocal ; an unusual constraint has been visible in her behaviour towards me ever since his arrival ; and as for his part, he has neither eyes nor ears for any other object.—I feel myself (continued he, in accents that reached my heart) cut down ; I acknowledge his superiority. He is in every respect, as his Lordship too justly observed, *an eligible alliance.* — Yet am I not most singularly unhappy, to lose, in one and the same instant, the man and woman I hold most dear ? — Strange fatality ! and have we met only for this ?”

“ Dear

“ Dear fellow, (said I) recollect your-
 “ self ; you know Mr. Finly’s dispositi-
 “ on ; he must be incapable of wounding
 “ his friend’s peace.”

“ How happily ignorant you are (re-
 “ turned he) in affairs of this nature.

“ —If love is an enlarger of the heart
 “ in some respects, it must naturally ope-
 “ rate very differently, when relinquish-
 “ ing the beloved object becomes the
 “ question. —There the voice of friend-
 “ ship is heard but faintly ; nay too fre-
 “ quently the pleadings even of honour
 “ and humanity are totally disregarded.”

It were endless to recite all that pass-
 ed.——I endeavoured, to the utmost of
 my power, to brighten him up ;—but was
 so little satisfied with my success, and
 conceived so mean an opinion of your
 whiners, that I abjure every soft connec-
 tion, and will remain no less unchanged
 in my condition than sentiments.

I am, my dear Harry, your affectionate

BRADSHAW.



LETTER VI.

Miss KENNINGTON to Miss CAREY.

DID I not say I would throw aside my pen till my spirits were somewhat revived? Idle, thoughtless promise! ill befitting my present situation.

Yet I had, indeed, begun to flatter myself, with what degree of probability must be obvious, that at least my continuance at this place would have proved an agreeable period; the lively complaisance of Mr. Bradshaw, in conjunction with my Lord's affected gaiety, so far amusing Lady Sarah, as to leave her no leisure to interrupt the more rational satisfactions of Mr. Shugburgh, Mr. Fleetwood, and your friend.

But our calm delights, however seemingly secure, were suddenly torn from us
by

by the arrival of two ladies by no means strangers to my fine relations, and a gentleman known to them only by fame.

Elated at the rencounter, and with hearts replete with giddy vivacity, the former soon united themselves to the laughing party; whilst the latter, from an early contracted friendship and similarity of taste with Mr. Fleetwood, made a more sober, though for me unfortunate election.

You may, perhaps, think it extraordinary, that the additional company of a man, whose figure, address, rank, and sentiments, intitle him to the most favourable, the most respectful, consideration, should be deemed a calamity: —but here lies the grievance. —Lord Kennington, who seldom sees things in their proper light, has been so fatally absurd as to misconstrue Mr. Finly's affection for his friend, into a growing approbation of me; and with more zeal than propriety or kindness,

ness, read me an instructive lecture upon the occasion.

No sooner had a day or two so far familiarised us, that Mr. Finly began to treat me with ease and freedom, than his Lordship conceived this notable idea; and frequently incited me by nods and winks, at that time unintelligible, to assume a greater degree of sprightliness, or, to use his own language, animation.

But in proportion as Mr. Finly's gaiety broke forth, Mr. Fleetwood's declined.

I was too much prepossessed in his favour to be unmindful of the change: but how impossible for me to seek an explanation in which I had reason to believe myself particularly concerned, your own delicacy will sufficiently suggest.

Agitated and perplexed, I knew not how to support my Lord's too penetrating and curiously observing eye; judge then of my confusion and apprehension, when I this morning received a command to attend him in his own apartment.

A criminal — I nevertheless appeared before him.

“ I confess, Sarah (said he, in his peculiar manner), you are an astonishing girl.—The innocence, the undesigning turn of your features, throws one to that degree off one’s guard, that the arrow is lodged before the archer is perceived.”

“ My Lord !” — (said the simpleton.)

“ Prettily affected !” exclaimed he.—

“ That is, indeed, a master-stroke !—

“ And so, child, you would persuade me,

“ your heart is unconscious of the mischief your eyes have effected : but re-

“ nounce your sex for once, and honestly tell me, if you are not sensible that

“ Mr. Finly is become your very great

“ admirer ?”

“ Indeed, my Lord” —

“ Well, well,— (cried he, interrupting me) I am not a friend to

“ protestations, and have no right to

“ confess you ; — therefore, my little cousin, I will spare your blushes,

“ and

“ and only inform you how happy the
 “ discovery has rendered me.—Mr. Fin-
 “ ly has a noble fortune, has travelled
 “ with every advantage, and cannot fail
 “ of success wheresoever he vouchsafes to
 “ pay his addresses. — Be it your care
 “ then, as the first demanded proof of
 “ your grateful attachment to me, to im-
 “ prove his good liking. Your face
 “ has every charm but vivacity to recom-
 “ mend it, and with that addition must
 “ fix him irrevocably. — What speech-
 “ less! — motionless! (demanded he)
 “ — Mr. Finly’s fate is, in one respect,
 “ similar with Pygmalion’s: he, indeed,
 “ was captivated with a work of his own
 “ hands;—but a statue is not less a sta-
 “ tue (laughing immoderately) for not
 “ being his performance: — and I as
 “ vainly endeavour to warm you into
 “ resentment by my raillery, as he wish-
 “ ed to communicate life to the beaute-
 “ ous marble.—However, (continued
 “ he, assuming a less whimsical accent)

“if you only possess such a degree of
 “sensibility as to make a proper use of
 “the intimations I have thrown out, I
 “shall be content. — An affair of this
 “nature once begun is more than half
 “accomplished — and your abilities may
 “be relied on.”

So saying, he hurried by me, with a mixture of compassion, contempt, and approbation, in his countenance.

Lady Sarah's woman bounced in upon me, before I had recovered my surprize and mortification. — “Upon my word, miss, (said she somewhat pertly) his Lordship treats you with uncommon tenderness. — I over-heard the conclusion of your conversation, and have reason to know, that if my lady had been under the same circumstances he would not so readily have excused her silence. — But some folks may sooner steal a horse, than others look over the hedge.”

I ap-

I apprehended an uncivil stroke, and was glad to find it no worse; but lest her flippancy should provoke me to commit high treason against her lady mistress, as offending her would be most infallibly deemed, I left her abruptly, and rejoined the company.

Should his Lordship's conjectures have any real foundation, adieu to every prospect, every shadow of felicity. Yet, surely, Mr. Finly can never be guilty of so great an error, as to conceive so uninformed a creature as me could prove a suitable companion for him. — This fantastical nobleman must be premature in his judgment. Had he entertained an opinion of the same nature respecting his friend, the amiable Fleetwood, I should not have been disposed to call his penetration in question. — But to what purpose his approbation? — Pity, oh kindly pity, a misjudging dependent being! — Now am I more than ever convinced of the cruelty of depriving me of the sanc-

tion and protection of a tender mother, at a period so critical.—Yet of whom can I complain? Dare I depend more on a temporal than an eternal parent?—When the mind is softened, how affliction pours in from every avenue! My father's death, my mother's disagreeable situation, my own precarious dependence, were all twisted about my heart, by the single pang it experienced on Mr. Fleetwood's account.

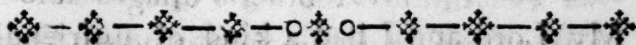
I will, however, henceforth fortify myself against such idle weakness.

But tell me, my dear, for I must be serious, why is giddy vanity alone incapable of delighting my imagination? The ladies at this place set me a very pretty example: Coqueting and reparteeing fills up all their time, nor have I heard one sentimental subject discussed by the whole party.—May they still pursue their unsatisfactory pleasures, whilst I divide all my hours between my distant and present friends!

Pay

Pay proper duty for me to my mother ;
but there are many particulars in this letter highly improper for her perusal.

I am, my Dear,
Most affectionately your's,
S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER VII.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

Holbead.

WHAT horrible consequences this same passion of love is capable of producing ? Instead of that amiable industry, that worthy emulation, that so late prevailed of excelling each other in acts of kindness only, we are become silent, serious, and reserved.

Bob gives himself for indisposed. — Mr. Finly is declaredly affected on his account. — Miss Kennington's eyes tell

soft sympathizing tales.—The fluttering ladies are out of tune: they cease to exist, if unflattered or unnoticed; and, upon my honour, I am so far unhinged by my apprehensions for your brother, that I cannot feed their vanity as I was wont.

O cruel winds, when will ye relent!—My Lord and I had a kind of unfriendly brush this morning.—“Mr. Fleetwood’s
“indisposition (said he, having given me
“the time of the day) is a most unlucky
“circumstance.—What a change has it
“not already introduced!—The broad
“contagious mirth that used to revel
“in every countenance, is totally fled.
“I myself have borne up surprisingly
“hitherto: but I am mortal, (added he,
“with his peculiar twist of his hand)
“and if once subdued shall not suddenly
“revive.—Your Hum-drums is a most
“obstinate disorder.”

I own I was piqued at his manner of attacking me, and replied in accents sufficiently intelligent;—“I acknowledge
the

“ the justice of your Lordship’s observa-
 “ tion, and it shall not be my fault if
 “ my friend does not absent himself until
 “ he recovers a capacity for joy. — It is
 “ unpardonable to infect such good com-
 “ pany.”

Mr. Shugburgh perceiving, by the
 peer’s flushed cheek, that we were rather
 at cross-purposes, every opportunely in-
 terposed. — “ What silly trick are
 “ you two playing ?” (demanded he
 “ humorously). — Empty stomachs are
 “ apt to engender froward inclinations.
 “ — To breakfast, to breakfast, if you
 “ are wise. — Would you aggravate what
 “ is in itself a real misfortune ? — A per-
 “ verse will (no bad observation for a fai-
 “ lor) cannot, nay, indeed, ought not,
 “ at all times to be tolerated. — But
 “ would you quarrel with disease, a cala-
 “ mity to which we are all liable ? — I
 “ hope better things (added he) ; for he
 “ must have a strange nature that could
 “ indulge in levity when a fellow-crea-
 “ ture,

“ ture, much more a fellow-traveller, is
“ incapable of participating. This young
“ gentleman’s disorder (said he, as a far-
“ ther proof of his sagacity) may not
“ continue, or we may have but a few
“ hours to continue with him; let us
“ not, therefore, idly forfeit a fort-
“ night’s amity which has yielded us
“ such abundant delight, unknowing as
“ we are what the ensuing fortnight
“ may produce.”

His Lordship was pleased to receive this speech very graciously.—“Well said, old Stedfast (cried he).—My young spark here was inclined to be cholerick, from my being unseasonably pettish; but you have set us right, and we will never err again.—Your hand? (continued he)—May the accommodation be lasting!—No apologies (I offered a slight excuse for my warmth). We were equally to blame. Let us, therefore, efface remembrances of the past by future benevolence.”

I bowed,

I bowed, in token of acquiescence, and was slipping up stairs, in order to divert Bob with the scene, when my attention was engaged by a very different species of altercation that issued from an apartment, the door of which was half open.

“ I must tell you, (said Mrs. Barnard
 “ our landlady, for her voice is pretty
 “ remarkable) that your behaviour is
 “ thought very particular by all the ladies
 “ in the house.—As if you could not as
 “ well be sociable, and dine where other
 “ folks dine. — For my part, I love to
 “ pick and chuse my company as well as
 “ the best; but when I know who’s who,
 “ I am no flincher.”

“ I am sorry my reserve (resumed a
 “ softer and more judicious accent) gives
 “ offence to any one.— But I have my
 “ reasons; — and cannot apprehend it
 “ necessary to do a violence to my incli-
 “ nation to gratify the curiosity of per-
 “ sons I am intirely unacquainted with.
 “ — If you require any farther amends

“ for extraordinary attendance, I will
 “ gladly satisfy you. I would not be
 “ troublesome to you, but on your own
 “ terms.”

“ Nay, for that matter, I do not scruple your pay (said my landlady) ; but
 “ you are young, and may want your
 “ money hereafter . Store is no fore, and,
 “ A penny saved is a penny got.—To be
 “ sure, it does look mysterious to shut
 “ yourself up, and only sets people
 “ watching and prying ; —and I know
 “ not what constructions are already put
 “ upon it. Beauty and rags, as the saying is, are always caught at ; and lord
 “ Kennington’s valet de chambre swears
 “ he will find you out, let what will be
 “ the consequence.”

“ Surely (resumed the sweetly articulated sound) I am very unhappy ;
 “ but let me hear no more of it : I will
 “ not be insulted by any one ; and whatever insolence the man may be capable of performing, I doubt not but his

“ Lord

“ Lord will have the justice to punish ; I
 “ shall therefore make myself very easy.”

My landlady slapped the door after her in a kind of pet, and went away muttering.

How natural it is to be impertinently curious ! nor is any rank or condition, elegant breeding or sentiment, a security against this little passion. It is true, it operates differently upon different minds, but still retains one and the same principle ; nor does my Lord’s valet experience a stronger desire to discover this stranger, than her voice, expressions, and singularity of conduct, have excited in my breast.

I have made all possible, though distant enquiry concerning her, and find she arrived only a few days before us. — She has remained invisible ever since, except at one unlucky period, that the distressful condition of a poor sailor, who was seized with a fainting-fit under her window, drew

drew her from her concealment, in the full face of all the second-hand gentry.

Humanity alone engrossed her attention till she saw the fellow revive, when recollecting her own situation, and perceiving herself observed with wonder and inquisitiveness, she retired in confusion.

It was in consequence of this accidental exposure of her person, that Mrs. Barnard was employing her rhetoric, in order to gratify her guests with an opportunity of conversing with her, — who were beyond measure solicitous to detect the Minx, as they civilly styled her.

But she was proof against her eloquence, and by disappointing the wishes, increased the enmity of the whole party.

What a strange unsatisfactory life she must have led! — Handsome and well-bred my landlady describes her, but accuses her of obstinacy. Her reasons for burying herself in retirement are undoubtedly of an extraordinary nature, or she could never have had the resolution to deny herself for

so

so long a period, what is so highly essential to the happiness of her sex in general ;—I mean adulation.

Perhaps she is unfortunate ; perhaps necessitous :— if so, I indeed pity her.— An enlarged mind and contracted circumstances is a calamity, especially when in conjunction with a form that places both the one and the other in a dangerous point of view ; — for there are a set of wretches upon earth, dignified with titles and cursed with riches, capable of marking down such a defenceless innocent as lawful prey :— and innocent I ought to deem her, who has betrayed no tokens of vice, in either her expressions or behaviour, and only from a singularity, in itself far from discommendable, avoids meeting impertinent eyes. For my own part, I will not, to gratify any little passion, however greatly tempted, transgress the rules of good-breeding ; nor shall her peace or privacy be broken in upon by

FRANK BRADSHAW.

LET-



LETTER VIII.

The same to the same.

[Holibead,

Wind high and unfavourable.

THIS morning has, indeed, been a busy one. We were seated at breakfast, according to custom, neither absolutely sprightly nor absolutely dull, when our ears were saluted by an unusual clamor.

“ You mischief-making thing, you !

“ (cried a female voice) and so, if it was

“ in your power, you would ruin Mr.

“ Squib in his Lord’s good opinion, only

“ for an innocent frolic, wou’d you ?”

“ Aye, that she would (rejoined another

“ lady) it is plain, by pushing for the par-

“ lor : but one comfort is, that his Lord-

“ ship is above listening to such trumpery

“ as she is.”

Mrs.

“ Mrs. Barnard (my heart acknow-
 “ ledged the voice), I insist upon speak-
 “ ing with the company in that room.
 “ That they are persons of distinction, I
 “ have already learnt, and doubt not but
 “ they will condescend to protect an un-
 “ offending creature from insolent inter-
 “ ruption.—I disdain expostulating with
 “ any of you, though I have not deserv-
 “ ed the treatment I have met with.—
 “ Yet, perhaps, the fault is in myself.—
 “ You might have no view beyond divert-
 “ ing yourselves; and I may feel too sensi-
 “ bly for the occasion; but surely you
 “ ought not to have done it at my expence.
 “ — I again repeat, that it is in vain
 “ to oppose my resolution; for I will not
 “ retire, until I have seen the nobleman
 “ that daring fellow belongs to.”

Surprised at what we heard, we gazed
 upon one another.—Mr. Shugburgh, to
 whom the voice of distress was familiar,
 and whose humanity never slept, instant-

ly opened the door, and presented us with a scene beyond description interesting.

Suppose a lamb about to be worried by half a dozen hungry wolves.—Suppose—but it is impossible for you to conceive any one idea so tenderly striking, or so beautifully affecting, as the lovely stranger appeared, surrounded by a set of beings bursting with envy, malice, and malevolence.

—The passage was instantly cleared.—The generous-hearted sailor, with a frankness peculiar to himself, advanced to the young woman, and taking her by the hand,—“I know not (said he) that person living I would not gladly rescue from the gripe of barbarity;—but you, my pretty creature, to deliver such a one as you from persecution must unspeakably delight a benevolent heart. I have obtained a kind of right in you by the little service I have rendered you, on the strength of which,
“and

“ and the influence I apprehend I possess
 “ with this good company, I will intro-
 “ duce you to them, and they to you.—

“ My Lord ”——

“ Pardon me, sir, (said the stranger,

“ gently disengaging her hand) I cannot,

“ I will not suspect you capable of sport-

“ ing with the unhappy ;—— but as I am

“ conscious your intended compliment is

“ utterly unsuitable to the humility of

“ my fortune, you must permit me,

“ by first declining it, to save myself from

“ the ridicule I should otherwise incur.

“ I have been grossly affronted by lord

“ Kennington’s valet, who assuming the

“ dress of one of the chamber-maids,

“ entered my apartment, and behaved

“ very improperly. I own I could not

“ overlook so notorious an outrage, and

“ was determined to apply for protection

“ to a quarter where I could not appre-

“ hend a denial.—If I have succeeded in

“ that respect, my every wish is accom-

“ plished, and I have only to intreat,

“ that my intrusion, with the cause of
“ it, may be totally forgotten.”

—“ Tell us not of forgetting (said Mr.

“ Finly, pushing forward); it is impos-

“ sible to forget so agreeable an object.

“ Ladies, Miss Kennington, perhaps you

“ may prevail; —we are all travellers a-

“ like;—I can perceive no distinction:—

“ you shall, you must become one of us,

“ at least during our temporary limitation

“ to this untoward spot.”

Miss Kennington warmly joined her
sweetly persuasive accents. Never did she
appear more amiable in my sight; the
friend of her own sex, the friend of love-
linefs, no narrow apprehensions did she
entertain of being out-shone.—Yes, for
her sake, Harry, I will believe a wo-
man can be generous. As for the others,
except the simpering Mrs. Bateman, who
is not utterly devoid of humanity, *tell it*
not in Gath, publish it not in the courts of
Askelon.—’Tis true they spoke not; but
verbal opposition is unnecessary when the

brow

brow is unfavourable : — the fiend was in their countenances. These haughty puppets shall nevertheless dance to my wires, and sufficiently absurd I will render them. — Oh I could rave ! — But Miss Kennington is capable of reconciling me to what I should otherwise abjure ; nor will I dare to traduce a set of petticoats, whilst she condescends to wear them.

There is a dignity in this stranger's deportment, yet an humble uniformity, different from any thing I ever yet met with. To all the beauty of Miss Kennington's person and character, is superadded an animation both of features and manners ; a commanding something which the pencil might, perhaps, reach, but the pen never can. The goodness of the one appears passive, the other active. Her soul beams in her eyes ; nor is she in the least constrained or uncollected by the superiority, as she would intimate, of her company. — But let her circumstances be ever so unhappy, it is evident she is eno-

bled by nature. Their honours are merely hereditary.

Her dress is, to the last degree, plain, but perfectly elegant ;—an unquestionable testimony of an elegant mind. Though solicitous to conceal herself from every eye, she could not degenerate into negligence ; the purity of her heart, or excellent established custom of her life inclining her to preserve her outward appearance as free from every loose impropriety, as her interior part.

You and I, Harry, know something of the sex, and need not be told what different creatures the morning and evening presents them ; but the man, however captivated by a pretty figure, when displayed to the best advantage, would be instantly restored to liberty on discovering the cheat ; for few of us can excuse a *dirty* propensity in even a first-rate beauty : nor is it surprizing that the spruce neat chambermaid engages attention, where the lady-mistress is an arrant flattern.

Morn.

Morn.

We got over yesterday pretty hobblingly; but I perceived Lady Sarah's breast was this morning high-swelled with right honourable indignation.

She had reflected upon the strange conduct she had been surprised into respecting the little adventurer, and could not sufficiently despise herself for it. "A pert thing, come from nobody knew where, bred nobody knew how, and, perhaps, born on a dunghill, must take it into her head to conceive herself affronted by a little harmless frolic concerted by a set of people every way her equals, and have the effrontery to press upon persons of fashion;—who, struck by the singularity of her confidence, and the plausibility of a few common-place expressions,—immediately open their arms and receive her amongst them."

"Hey-dey! here's a turn indeed! (cried Mr. Shugburg)—Ladies hearts,

“ I find, are much sooner lost than
 “ won.”

“ I beg, sir, (resumed her Ladyship, not
 “ a little heated) you will not treat what

“ I say so ludicrously: the impropriety of
 “ our proceedings is such, that even our

“ very servants are tempted to exclaim
 “ against them; and my woman, as she

“ justly observes, from being notorious for
 “ her honesty, might more naturally ex-

“ pect to be placed at table with us, than
 “ a stranger, who can have no pretensions

“ to such toleration.”

“ But Lady Sarah, (said Mr. Finly,
 “ warmly) you will not, surely, take

“ upon you to say, that this lovely girl
 “ is not of a very different species to your

“ handmaid. — Is she not mistress of ma-
 “ ny accomplishments beyond the reach

“ of fortune, or the dignity of title? —

“ Her address, her language, her senti-
 “ ments, are ——”

“ Very fine, (cried she, breaking in
 “ upon him abruptly) very fine, up-

“ on

“on my honour, sir; but not sufficiently so as to excuse our absurdity. For my part, I have recovered the use of my senses, and shall act agreeably to their dictates.”

Arraigning a lady's judgment is not the method to win her to our purpose; I therefore pursued a very different plan. — “I confess, (said I, collecting much meaning and submission into my countenance) that there is too just grounds for Lady Sarah's dissatisfaction: we were rather premature in our approbation of this girl. — But let her enjoy the favour we have shewn her, so long as she retains her grateful, her humble behaviour; — it would be cruel to punish her for our folly: your Ladyship knows (bowing with great respect), she was sufficiently sensible that the honour was too much for her, and most reluctantly accepted it. — Mrs. Bateman, Miss Turner, (they but now joined us) how say you? — Are you disposed to espouse

“ espouse the cause of good-nature and
“ amiable condescension? Lady Sarah
“ (added I most artificially, for I had not
“ given her time to speak her farther sen-
“ timents) is already overcome, and you
“ must likewise yield.”

“ Thou odd creature! (simpered out
“ Mrs. Bateman) give us the merits —
“ though do not upon recollection, we
“ may implicitly subscribe where Lady
“ Sarah approves.”

I discharged a whole volley of compliments, extolled the goodness, the graciousness, of a disposition only a few removes from infernal.—It however was an honest deceit, and happily preserved Patty Price from falling a prey to the united malice of a parcel of proud, artful, dependants, with whom her superiority was a crime of the deepest dye.

What dupes these fine ladies are even to the most contemptible race of flatterers, their attendants! Humiliating reflection!

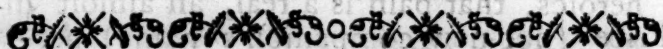
These gentry can wind them up, and let them down at will by no better artifice than a judicious regard to time and their most prevailing inclination; and it was a moot point whether Mrs. Abigail or your friend had been victorious, so dexterously had she played her cards, and worked upon her Ladyship's various unamiable passions.

Miss Kennington having past a sleepless night from the tooth-ach, breakfasted in her own apartment; nor would Patty Price (our new companion's name) permit her to breakfast alone. Their *tête-à-tête*, I doubt not, was an agreeable one, as they are apparently well-affected towards each other, and possess sources of delight peculiar to their characters.

Bob and Mr. Finly would have been lost things without them, had not Lady Sarah's extraordinary behaviour rendered their absence a most desirable circumstance.—They could not, however, forbear drawing off in the evening, whilst I was left to perform the
fatiguing

fatiguing task of flattery, alone and unassisted. — But it must be performed, or Patty be a sufferer; — I therefore cheerfully submitted to the otherwise cruel constraint, except now and then that a recollection would strike me of their happiness, when I found myself pained and unhinged, — not from *envy*, Harry, — but from *love*; — for were they not all my chosen friends? —

Adieu.



LETTER IX.

Miss KENNINGTON to Miss CAREY.

Holbead.

REJOICE with me, my dear Dolly, that things have once more taken a happy turn; nor will I deprive myself of present pleasure (a favourite tenet of Mr. Bradshaw's), by foolishly anticipating future ill; nor will I borrow a te-

net only from that gentleman, but on this occasion take the liberty to adopt his language, and profess that I am tempted to conceive myself cast on fairy ground, so unexpected, so flattering, is the alteration these last four-and-twenty hours have produced in my affairs.—And yet, to deal fairly by you, I have only exchanged mental for corporeal suffering.—A tooth, a single tooth most cruelly torments me, and obliges me to confess, in spite of my heroics, that pain is a real, an almost insupportable, evil.

I would inform you of the strange cause from whence these wonderful effects have been produced, but know not where to begin. — A kind of magic, — a strange plot — in short, I am convinced that the distinction Mr. Finly was pleased to pay me, was wholly owing to my being the least fluttering, consequently, the most rational, female of the company ;—for no sooner did he encounter the lovely, spirited, glowing countenance of Patty Price,

than

than your little friend dwindled into that pretty nothingness of significance peculiar to her age and inoffensive nature.

But, methinks, I hear you ask, who Patty Price may be.—You must, indeed, be content with the most limited intelligence.—No one can give other account of her, than that she is a beautiful and reserved young woman; nor is she to be prevailed upon to give an account of herself.

I am sorry to say it, but my Lord's servants in general are a confident set of wretches; nor do I apprehend Mrs. Bateman's woman, or Mr. Finly's gentleman (as he is called), to be one jot better disposed. They, as well as their masters and mistresses, languished for amusement.—Cards, scandal, by a too frequent recourse, lost the power to please.—A frolic was what they had set their hearts upon;—and it was that frolic that procured us the happiness we now enjoy.

How

How effectually was the malicious purpose of these high-fed beings defeated !— Instead of humbling a stranger, whose love of retirement, evident superiority, and perhaps due contempt of them excited their resentment, they have abundantly exalted her : therefore, in consideration of the service they have rendered her, I will over-look the baseness of their intention.

Mr. Shugburgh warmly espouses her interest ;—but it is a sufficient recommendation with him, to be unfortunate or unprotected. My Lord and Mr. Bradshaw were evidently struck by her appearance, but Mr. Finly was absolutely transported.

The ladies, indeed, behold her with cold civility. — A sneer visibly adorned Lady Sarah's aspect ; but, however becoming she might conceive it to her features, it was far from conveying an amiable idea of her humanity.

You see how pert a smiling prospect, and a cheerful companion or two, is capable

pable of making me. I would not be ungrateful, I would not be severe, but it hurts me unspeakably, to perceive the *little-mindedness* of this *great* relation. Unprovoked to become the enemy, in all probability, of virtue; virtue in its utmost loveliness, shunning the sight; the approbation of mortality; is surely a reflection on either her head or her heart. — I wish both may not be greatly concerned.

I have pushed pretty hard to engage her to communicate, but without success.

“ My dear madam, (said she this morning, in a *tête-à-tête*,) I am convinced your anxiety respecting me proceeds from real benevolence; — but I cannot prevail upon myself to disclose what would pain me to relate, and you to hear, without the least benefit or advantage to either of us. Be satisfied, (continued she with a sigh, which she vainly endeavoured to suppress) my reserve does not result from guilt; — that I’m unfortunate, not criminal; and
“ should

“should my affairs ever take a favourable turn, I will most gladly account for what at present may have the appearance of mystery, as I find your good opinion will always be of consequence to my happiness.”

Lady Sarah has been shut up some hours with her beloved confidante; who, I suppose, will leave nothing unsaid to prevail upon her to discountenance the object of her resentment.

Her Ladyship's passions are strong; but her interest, I hope, will not be sufficient to bias the whole company. — As for me, I am a mere cypher, nor would my voice be attended to by this cousin on any occasion. I am impatient for the event, as I cannot doubt Mrs. Preston's power or inclination to prejudice her Ladyship against this worthy girl.

My conjectures were but too well founded. — There has been a terrible turmoil; — but Patty is safe. — Mr. Brad-

shaw, I shall ever love him for his well employed eloquence, pleaded her cause with Lady Sarah. She was overcome, and I am happy.

We passed the whole day together.— I wished but for one addition to the satisfaction we enjoyed ;—nor did I absolutely wish in vain. Our tea had, indeed, been brought us, every attendant dismissed, (it is ease and freedom alone that constitutes felicity) before the glad period arrived ;—when a gentle tap at the door of my apartment demanded our attention.

I flew with a kind of spontaneous impatience to inform myself of the cause. It was Mr. Fleetwood ; the friendly, the obliging, Mr. Fleetwood, my dear, whose interest in the well-being of your humble servant had incited to steal from the joyous party below, to make a few tender enquiries concerning her.

Ill-timed, yet unconquerable timidity
—No impropriety, no extraordinary distinction from a man of politeness and sensibility ;

sensibility; nevertheless the blushing cheek officiously betrayed the fluttering heart.

My companion, whose vivacity and well cultivated understanding most deservedly give her the advantage, relieved my confusion, by claiming a share in the compliment.

“ I find, sir, (said she) that nothing is
 “ so attracting to young minds, as youth.
 “ Had either patient or nurse attained
 “ their grand climacteric, a civil distant
 “ enquiry would have been the utmost
 “ attention a gentleman of your time of
 “ life would have willingly paid ; but, as
 “ the case now stands, you have very
 “ prettily contrived to introduce yourself.
 “ — Yet, why (added she, looking arch-
 “ ly) attempt to impose upon us ? It is
 “ true, the deception is decently covered ;
 “ but if you had not promised yourself
 “ some farther satisfaction than a mere
 “ How do you ? you had not deferred
 “ it till this period ; — this tea-drinking
 “ period, when it is so natural to expect,

“ and so common to give an invitation to
“ take a dish, and a consequential share
“ in the conversation.”

“ I own, madam, (said he, smiling
“ agreeably) the marks are strong upon
“ me.—But say, am I then successful?
“ —Will you admit me to the participa-
“ tion I sought for; or can you resolve
“ to punish my presumption and hy-
“ pocrisy, by obliging me to return from
“ whence I came?”

“ I will be very plain with you, sir
“ (returned she, in the same humorous
“ manner); I am no misanthrope, —
“ therefore could not inflict the punish-
“ ment you mention, but by doing vio-
“ lence to my own inclination;— and
“ (she looked so meaningly at me, I could
“ scarce support my own consciousness)
“ we will not for once behave ungraci-
“ ously. But methinks you would have
“ been doubly welcome, if you had brought
“ us another stroller, as we could then
“ have had a party of our own.”

“ O!

“ O ! madam, (said he, with agree-
 “ able surprise) if that is all, your con-
 “ descension shall be amply rewarded,
 “ for I have a friend who will be equally
 “ delighted with myself at so unexpected
 “ an overture ;—nor must I be prevailed
 “ upon to delay his happiness.” — So
 saying he hastily withdrew, notwith-
 standing Miss Patty advised him to rest
 content until the tea was over.

“ I protest, madam, (said she, as soon
 “ as we were alone,) I was quite con-
 “ cerned for you.— That young gen-
 “ tleman —But he is perfectly agreeable,
 “ and you are not insensible. — Do not
 “ be offended (added she, very prettily)
 “ at this little liberty, which I would
 “ never have taken, but in order to ac-
 “ count for a behaviour so foreign to
 “ the present disposition of my heart.—
 “ I, indeed, felt so much for you, that
 “ I forgot myself ; and, by an assumed
 “ vivacity, not only relieved you at
 “ that

“ that exigence, but have procured you
 “ an agreeable evening.”

I had no time to reply ; — the gentlemen, with pleasure - speaking countenances, made their appearance, and the conversation became general. We were abundantly too well pleased with each other to recollect the purpose for which we were assembled ; — and is it not astonishing, Dolly, that cards are so frequently permitted to interrupt intellectual enjoyments ?

All my former sufferings were forgotten ; and never, never did I experience more heart-felt satisfaction.

I am, &c.

LET-



LETTER IX.

MR. BRADSHAW to MR. FLEETWOOD.

Holbead.

A Week, my good Harry, has now elapsed without any extraordinary change, except Bob's happy deliverance from every apprehension of rivalry.— The fair stranger has in a satisfactory degree drawn off Finly's attention from Miss Kennington, and your brother's heart beats high with love and friendship.

Lord Kennington is himself too much delighted with Patty to be sensible of Mr. Finly's preference of her to his niece.— A happy circumstance for us all, as discord and confusion could alone be the consequence of such a discovery. He flutters round her chair, whispers the

softest prettiest things, exults in his own importance, and is utterly unsuspicious that it extends not beyond his *little* heart.

Mr. Shugburgh's open generous nature knows not to disguise its feelings. — What he warmly approves he must warmly commend; by which practice I have been enabled to trace the envious workings of certain ladies' dispositions, unperceived by every eye but mine.

Lady Sarah and Miss Turner are every thing to each other. Their tastes, their optics, correspond. — Malice and uncharitableness is the medium thro' which they behold every object; consequently, their private moments and sentiments must be diabolical.

I am astonished they have not yet had the ingenuity to fix a stain upon Patty's character; but, perhaps, they only tolerate her for the present, — to aggravate her future mortification; — for bitterer enemies never merit procured.

The

The Widow's spirits begin to fail her. — Repentance, Harry, is but another name for apprehension of punishment ; for could the thief escape the execution of his sentence, or Mrs Bateman's place by any means be secured to her, neither the one nor the other would look back with contrition.

The forfeiture of her provision would be as literally the consequence of idle and improper conduct, as the malefactors sufferings of his crimes. — She, nevertheless, possesses such abundant good-nature, — that whilst we blame we pity, — and pity what we should blame.

I have remarked to you, in a former epistle, that human felicity, in a great measure, depends upon the will ; and I am sorry to have occasion to repeat the observation. You remember our concert. — How happy were we ! — Lady Sarah's turbulent spirit at rest, and Miss Kennington's heart overflowing with satisfaction ! — nor would the addition of Mrs.
Bateman

Bateman and Miss Turner's company have proved an interruption to our harmony, had we but remained strangers to the lovely Patty Price.

You have known the world in a variety of situations ; — at court, what vice and insipidity ! — in the city, what insolence and meanness ! — in the country, what roughness and brutality ! but none of the scenes you have ever been acquainted with were half so extravagant, malicious, or ridiculous, as our private circle. The many excellencies of Patty's person and disposition have set us all in a ferment ; — the men, except Bob, with one consent love her ; — the women, except Miss Kennington, as unanimously hate her ; nor is the consequence of the one much more agreeable than the other.

Lord Kennington, who piques himself upon his talents for amusing, or procuring amusement, proposed a ball. — Five couple were by no means despicable. —

But

But many and grievous were the heart-burnings it occasioned.

I find it will be impossible to support it much longer.

His Lordship, presuming upon his rank, and wonderful superiority, took upon him to dispose of us :—Mr. Bradshaw, Lady Sarah ; — Mrs Bateman, Mr. Shugburgh ; so far was tolerably judicious :—but behold the falling off :—Miss Turner was given to poor Bobby, — Miss Kennington to the chagrined Finly, and his tottering Lordship had the modesty to reserve the queen of the company, the beauteous Patty, for his own prize.

Nothing in nature was ever more whimsically contrasted.

The fellow who had been the instrument of our acquaintance with Patty, was our musician. — Malice lowred on his brow ; and all the ladies that had enjoyed his brutal frolic were admitted as humble

humble spectators. — You may guess their feelings.

A minuet was called for, to open the performance.—The hobbling peer conducted his fair partner to the goal, and made the preparatory bow with visible triumph ;—when, unfortunately, his toe, in its return to a proper position for starting with the lady, struck against the side of a chair, and obliged him to make a precipitate retreat.

Finly flew to supply his place ; but he declared, with distorted features and interrupted accents, that no one should shine at his expence, for that minuets should be totally excluded.

Half an hour was spent in rubbing the joint into ease and elasticity, which was no sooner accomplished, than we drew up in order.

Finly jostled himself next my Lord. Patty smiled encouragement upon him, and reluctantly submitted to the necessity of joining hands with any other person.

Bob's

Bob's eyes wandered after Miss Kennington.—The music played in vain.—Miss Turner shoved him about, indeed, to tolerable time, but complained wofully of his heaviness and stupidity.

It is amazing amongst all these vicissitudes that I retain my consequence; but I have not yet declared war against their mightinesses, by attaching myself to their mortal enemy.

Youth, Harry, is a pretty season; it insensibly communicates a charm to propriety, and casts a gentle veil over petty errors, which none but the malicious and envious either wish or dare to remove.

Patty and Miss Kennington are at that very period when vanity is apt to mislead the judgment, and affectation to tinge the manners; yet however contemptible the one, or ridiculous the other, we know not how to condemn them; as they are natural, though exuberant shoots of innocent folly, which we are sensible the maturity of reason, and acquisition of

expe-

experience, will of course liberally prune. But what shall we say for the affectation that is full grown;—the case of these ladies whose vassal I am deemed? —Yet however preposterous, I have and must profess to admire them;—not is Patty or her friend in any degree so expecting or tenacious, as to the article of homage, as Lady Sarah, Mrs. Bateman, and Miss Turner.

I have made you master of Lady Sarah's portrait. Set it in the most advantageous light.—Well, is she not an engaging figure? Are such eyes for languishing,—such lips for hisping, pouting, or uttering nonsense, to be borne?

The Widow is turned of forty.—Her face a full moon, fat, smirking, and of ample circumference; her shoulders broad, hips large, and a fist would make you tremble.

Miss Turner, some half-dozen years her senior, a tawny ungain wretch. — I will not enter into particulars.

Miss

Miss Kennington has a happy taste for dress.—How sweetly is the cap suited to her lovely features, the ribbon to her complexion, and the robe to the elegant neck and shape!

“ Sarah, those cloaths (cries her Ladyship occasionally) become you. Touch the bell, Bradshaw : my woman, if you please. — Pray, Preston, (continues she, on her virgin’s presenting herself) let me set you to work ;— the model is before you.—Now can’t you fit me as exactly as Sarah is fitted, and for once let me be genteel?—How mortifying to be for ever outdone !”

Mrs. Bateman, Miss Turner, and her Ladyship, are all equipped in a few days ;—and what contributed to shew a lovely figure to advantage, proves an horrible aggravation of native ugliness.

This is the rock your ladies generally split upon ;—dupes to every arrogant fine woman, whose rank intitles her to lead the fashion. — Miss Kennington is

all good-nature and humility, and either does not really discover her aunt's absurdity, or most ingenuously conceals her sense of it from every observer ;— but the haughty beauty that would rather submit to be disguised than not render a whole herd ridiculous, enjoys the awkward imitation, conscious that unless her very person could be given to every individual, the artfully contrived vestment can impart no grace to the wearer.

But what a wretch to rob my friends of their best enjoyment !——They live, Harry, no longer than I am present ; nor, to be plain with you, can I, hereafter, write myself out to such an immoderate length. I have manifold avocations that demand my attention. My Lord's jest must be supported ; Miss Kennington's modest merit drawn forth to view ;—Patty's wit and address exercised and displayed ;—the honest Shugburgh's mirth duly encouraged ; — Lady Sarah's malice kept within bounds ; —Bob's vivacity

vivacity saved from dying; Miss Turner's humour purged from petulance; and Finly's love stifled in its infancy.

The ladies have sent for me.—Forgive, my fair companions, this last trespass.—But I have a word for our Harry to wind up my epistle.

What can occasion your unusual silence and stupidity?—News I must have, if not to entertain me, at least to render me entertaining.—You are sensible of the motive of my confinement to this place.—Deny my request, therefore, if you dare.—But, perhaps, you will plead your privilege. Your—never swell the catalogue; for it is impossible for me not to remain

Your's, &c.



LETTER X.

The same to the same.

NOW, Harry, all is at an end on this side the water.—The wind, though rough, blows off the coast, and bids us prepare to launch our little bark. —'Tis true, we were most pleasingly employed; yet I rejoice at the change for many reasons, but more especially on that person's account who might have been the greatest sufferer by our detention; for I question much but Lady Sarah would have relapsed, in spite of all my vigilance and industry. Adieu, therefore, to Holihead, petty adventures, and the imposition of self-denial and flattery.—My approbation of this amiable creature shall be no longer restrained. If I can be in any degree serviceable to her, in her future connexions,

Yours

H

Yours it

it will give me the highest satisfaction; for, if she is not worthy my best regard, to what shall we trust? — If every modest, every valuable endowment can be assumed at will, and warped to the purposes of deceiving — I shall begin to doubt even the reality of my own existence, Bob's faith, and your sincerity, &c.



LETTER XI.

From the same to the same.

Dublin.

NOTWITHSTANDING all my resolutions and quick-sightedness, this little witch has escaped from my knowledge. We had an amazing fine passage for the time of year; and, as I relied upon having an opportunity of declaring my friendly intentions on our disembarkation,

I continued to flirt with the ladies as usual ; but judge of my astonishment and mortification, when entering the house to which all the company had repaired for a little refreshment, and to wait for carriages, I discovered she was not amongst them.

By enquiring for her I spread the alarm, and it was evident Mr. Finly's concern was not inferior to my own.

Lady Sarah laughed at the Heroine's elopement; as she maliciously stiled her; advising both Finly and myself to become errant-knights, and wander in quest of her.

I suppressed my resentment from considerations of infinite weight. Miss Kennington appeared too little discomposed at the incident to leave me any reason to doubt that she was privy to her departure ; and, had I retorted upon her Ladyship agreeable to the dictates of my heart, I had excluded myself from all farther intercourse with the family, and possibility of intelligence.

My Lord declared, she was a little thief,
and

and he would apprehend her as such; for she had not only robbed him of his heart, but *stolen away* herself.

Mr. Shugburgh expressed the most lively concern for her welfare. — “ Her beauty (said he) will expose her to a multiplicity of inconveniencies, especially if her circumstances are limited. — I would gladly have been a friend to her. — She has deprived me of infinite satisfaction by thus withdrawing herself.”

Mr. Finly was silent:— A silence expressive of the most tender anxiety.— I know how to sympathize with him from my own feelings.

The Widow, who is too giddy for malice, and too lively for ill-nature, did not make a bad figure upon the occasion.— She would not have refused her her countenance or interest, if either would have been useful to her.

Miss Turner, aiming at what nature has denied her, wit, drew her features in-

to an affection of sorrow, and cried,
“ ’Twas wond’rous pitiful ! ”

I have not met with any thing that has so thoroughly chagrined me for a long time. — It was an unkind trick, at least with respect to Finly, who so frequently professed himself interested in her fate. — Yet, Perplexity begone ! I am a philosopher. — Ah, Harry, it withdraws not its daring front ; but imperiously demands, Can philosophy make a Patty ? — You may, however, spare yourself the trouble of being smart upon the occasion, as the distance between us is so great, that long before your witticisms can reach me, I shall be once more my very self.

Bob relapsed into the Dolorous on parting with Miss Kennington, notwithstanding we received many cordial invitations from his Lordship to improve our acquaintance.

Finly’s grandfather died three days before our arrival, and he is consequently become a dignified personage. — He neverthe-

vertheless has given us his company in-
tirely, or I know not how we should
have supported ourselves. I own I am
several keys lower than usual.



LETTER XI.

Miss KENNINGTON to Miss CAREY.

Dublin.

IT is true, my dear Dolly, that we have at last attained the destined port;—most reluctantly attained it, as more hearts than mine are ready to testify.

But, perhaps, you may be disposed to receive some account of us previous to our embarkation. That I am willing to oblige you, I hope you have no doubt; but my vivacity, my descriptive powers, if any I possessed, remain at Holihead, and you must have much leisure, and an extravagant fund of good-humour, if you can

patiently peruse the dull epistles I shall henceforth present you with.

It were better never to have known felicity than survive its loss.—Mr. Fleetwood, how will he employ his future hours?—Can he ever forget they were all so lately devoted to my amusement?—And will not the recollection occasion him some little pain?—For me alone he seemed to live.—But it is a vain and fruitless enquiry.—I will therefore re-enjoy what is past, by resigning my soul to thee, thou never-failing friend, Imagination; and, oh! restore it to that bliss stern reason would refuse.

Many days had sweetly passed away, our good liking of each other beyond measure increased, when the dreadful hour of separation suddenly overtook us.—For, in short, we seemed to have delivered ourselves up to the most extraordinary, as well as flattering, of delusions;—not once remembering by how precarious a tenure our happiness was suspended.

We

We had dined with our usual cheerfulness; and the cloth was scarce removed, before my Lord proposed, that the ensuing part of the day (to use his own words) “should be given to harmony.” — “The voice is ever in tune (said he) “when the bosom’s at rest; and if we “may trust the countenance of this little “circle, we cannot apprehend the slightest impediment to the test appearances;” — immediately striking up a soft air, which was evidently warbled at Miss Patty, though as evidently disregarded by her.

It was her turn next. Never shall I forget how well she performed; her melody, her judgment, were highly extolled.

My Lord was very brilliant upon the occasion. — “Happily fancied (cried he)! “--prettily insinuated! The double stroke “of the vanity of beauty and the vanity of wit, he could never sufficiently “admire. — *Vain is beauty’s gaudy flower* “—(singing affectedly). — I hope, my “young

“ young lady, that lesson is as profitable
“ with you, as your *shadow of a shade*
“ shall be with me.— It was well di-
“ rected, — and cannot fail of its pur-
“ pose.”

This sally diverted us all, as alternate singing and commenting continued to do, for two successive hours, when we were interrupted by a music of a more boisterous nature. The wind, my dear, alike perverse in its constancy as variable-ness, at that instant shifted its quarter. — All hands were summoned on board, nor could the unhappily surprised passengers escape a similar fate.

We arose ; disappointment sat upon every countenance, particularly Miss Price's, who besought me, in a whisper, to favour her with a few moments private conversation.—I retired with her into a little apartment opposite the room we were then in.

“ Our time, my dear madam (said
“ she, as we entered), is now become in-
“ finitely

“ finitely precious, and I can only in-
 “ treat you, if possible, not to withdraw
 “ your friendship and approbation, how-
 “ ever you may hear I am circumstanced
 “ on our arrival in Dublin. I know
 “ you superior to every little prejudice
 “ narrow minds are subject to ; but it
 “ will be no easy task to reconcile your
 “ family to your generous sentiments.
 “ My situation mean, my origin obscure,
 “ will not your condescension be prohi-
 “ bited and condemned?”

“ Nothing, Patty (returned I, eager-
 “ ly), nothing shall prevent my attach-
 “ ment, but what can never happen, a
 “ conviction of your unworthiness. —
 “ What have I to boast?—Am I not a
 “ poor dependant upon the bounty, the
 “ — but you know their dispositions.”

“ Ah ! madam (said the lovely girl),
 “ you forget the consequence Lord
 “ Kennington’s near relationship gives
 “ you. — Not to afford you the pro-
 “ tection you now enjoy, would be to
 “ fix

“ fix an indelible stain upon his huma-
 “ nity : but I— However, my dear miss,
 “ I will not labour the point ;—every
 “ one but yourself, will see things in
 “ another light. It is not in my power
 “ (continued she) to be properly expli-
 “ cit with regard to the life I am enter-
 “ ing upon ; but I will take the liberty of
 “ informing you by letter, so soon as I
 “ am settled.—I have reason to apprehend
 “ the gentlemen will be abundantly cu-
 “ rious to know my destination ; and
 “ as it is not convenient to oblige them,
 “ I have determined to take a French
 “ leave the instant I set my foot on
 “ shore, notwithstanding I shall ever re-
 “ tain a grateful sense of the civility
 “ they have shewn me.—The parting
 “ ———”

“ Who talks of parting, with a voice
 “ so sweet ?” said his Lordship, with
 his usual gaiety, who came upon us very
 abruptly. —“ Our parting, my pretty
 “ friend, must be a transient one, or a
 “ certain

“ certain acquaintance of your’s will be
 “ most unhappy. I have long observed
 “ (continued he) the growing affection
 “ of my lovely girls for each other, and
 “ hope to find it more durable than the
 “ generality of female minds are capa-
 “ ble of. — No rivalry can ever inter-
 “ vene. — Though equally attractive,
 “ your charms are of so distinct, so se-
 “ parate a species, that whoever admires
 “ the one, can only approve the other.

“ To your care, Sally, (added he
 “ with great solemnity) I may venture
 “ to recommend your other self; prevail
 “ upon her to accompany you home,
 “ until she has, at least, recovered the
 “ fatigue of her passage; — and tell her,
 “ that the master of that house will ne-
 “ ver experience any degree of felicity,
 “ unless she will become a frequent vi-
 “ sitant.”

Mr. Finly advanced as his Lordship concluded this very gallant speech. —

“ May I be permitted ?” said he smiling.

“ Why

“ Why faith, sir (returned my Lord),
“ you are not more unopportune than
“ daring in your approach to this spot.
“ A single temptation, at your time of
“ day, might have proved sufficient. —
“ Thus doubly—But I leave you to your
“ fate” — casting a look at me that I
too well understood to be perfectly composed.

“ My dear ladies (said Mr. Finly),
“ how stand your hearts affected, with
“ respect to this hasty embarkation? —
“ Could we not have tasted the utmost
“ sweets of life, even in this narrow,
“ dreary, corner? — Is there, can there
“ be aught in Dublin to compensate the
“ loss of amiable friendship, and elegant
“ society?”

“ I, sir (said Miss Price), have abundant reason to regret leaving this place.
“ —The indulgence shewn me here, I
“ fear I shall seldom know hereafter;
“ and I am more than ever disqualified
“ for the conversation of my equals.”

Mr.

Mr. Fleetwood and Mr. Bradshaw now joined us.—Every one seemed to wish the other absent for private reasons.—But it could not be.—All order, all satisfaction, was at an end, and we were dispatched on board with the utmost expedition.

Patty's hand was contended for by three valiant knights. — But who knows not the efficacy of titles and dignities?—My Lord bore away the prize, — whilst her less happy admirers most reluctantly tendered their services to the other ladies.

Lady Sarah, very luckily, was ignorant of her swain's defection, or the loss of her favour had been irretrievable.—I had reason to tremble, as his friend would have been involved in the same ruin.

He had, in general, conducted himself with great propriety. — Honest nature will not, however, at all times, brook restraint.—Prudence, in conjunction with resolution, is powerful; but love, my friend, is superior to both.

You

You would have been highly diverted at my Lord's assiduity, so long as he was capable of being assiduous about the fair one, who was immediately affected by the motion of the ship.—But he was not long in a condition to afford her any assistance, and became by much the most pitiable object.

Patty gave me a farewell look, as we disembarked.—The tears were ready to start.—I turned hastily from her—never, perhaps, to behold her more.—She, by some means or other, contrived to elude all observation, and had conveyed herself far from every one's knowledge, even before they were sensible of their loss.

My Lord lamented her departure; Lady Sarah triumphed;—my heart felt a kind of doubtful hope of seeing her again; and the gentlemen were generally concerned and affected.

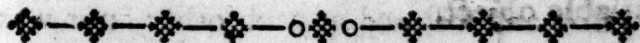
Surely, my dear, she will not unkindly deceive me.

You

You shewed my long letter to mama, which will answer every purpose for some time to come : I need, therefore, only add that I am,

most affectionately your's;

S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER XII.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

Dublin.

JUST returned from visiting at Lord Kennington's. Bob is a happy fellow. Miss Kennington's reception of him was to the last degree flattering, and restored him to life and consequence.

Lady Sarah was not at home on our first arrival.—As for the gentlemen, they dined at the Castle, and were not expected till late in the evening.

We had chatted some time, and I had prepared a very long speech, in order to

prevail upon the young lady to betray her friend's trust, when a thundering rap at the door announced Lady Sarah's return.

She flew up stairs with the utmost rapidity;—scarcely bestowed any attention to our civil salutations,—but appeared in great, though pleasing agitation.

Bob and I stared at each other, nor was Miss Kennington less at a loss to account for her ladyship's strange behaviour.

At length she vouchsafed to reveal the mighty cause.

“If I had not been so fortunate, gentlemen, as to meet with you here, I fancy it would have answered, to dispatch a special messenger with the glad tidings.—Miss Patty lives.—ah lives not far from hence! Sally, remember you a milliner—in Dartmouth-street she dwells,—it being holiday the beggar's shop is open, and behind the counter sits Miss Patty.”

The fool your friend started,—Lady Sarah's heart bounded with malicious plea-

pleasure at the success of her laboured,
and evidently preconcerted speech.

"I could perceive the little trades-
woman (reassumed she) in her whole
deportment, and own my astonishment
at the general infatuation that pre-
vailed.

"How will I rally my Lord and Mr.
Shugburgh, who distinguished himself
so singularly in her behalf. The pret-
ty creature (continued she in barbarous
rapture) had been visiting the English
metropolis, in order to see and convey
fashions from thence. A milliner, a
journey-woman milliner! I protest I
should have honoured my woman for
her condescension, if she had taken no-
tice of her.—Well, I think we made
ourselves sufficiently ridiculous!"

"That I am surprised at what I hear
(returned your Bradshaw), I must ac-
knowledge; but am far from entering
into the opinion, that it is any reflec-
tion upon either our discernment or un-

“ understandings, to have treated *such* a girl
 “ with kindness and humanity.—What
 “ did we more?—She dined at the same
 “ table indeed, — had a modest share in
 “ the conversation, — was properly sensi-
 “ ble of the disparity of conditions, and
 “ behaved with unspeakable humility.”

“ Well, sir, (returned she with an air
 “ of *haughty* condescension) we will per-
 “ mit you to defend an error in your
 “ judgment.”

“ Error, Lady Sarah! (replied I, hausti-
 “ ly) pardon me, for borrowing your ex-
 “ pression; — but, if it was an error, it
 “ was a most pleasing one; — and do we
 “ err then when we pay a due tribute to
 “ merit? Could even your Ladyship’s
 “ refinement carp at a single impropriety
 “ in her conversation or behaviour? —
 “ Was she not at all times so perfectly
 “ collected — so entirely mistress of herself
 “ and the subject she chose to engage
 “ upon, as to bid defiance to the ut-
 “ most malice of criticism?”

“ Is

“Is she not a milliner? (demanded
 “her Ladyship, maliciously exulting)
 “—Did you conceive she was a milli-
 “ner?—Or, will you take upon you to
 “prove that a milliner is a suitable com-
 “panion for people of rank?”

“Not in public (returned I), Lady Sa-
 “rah; but good-breeding, good-sense,
 “and a fair reputation, entitles every fe-
 “male to the kind consideration of her
 “own sex, let their condition be what it
 “may, in their more retired hours. —
 “Is an humble friend in any degree
 “contemptible? — Surely no, — when
 “the parade of state is laid aside, and
 “the heart alone becomes the object of
 “contemplation. What says the pro-
 “verb, Lady Sarah (continued I), ‘Tis
 “manners makes the man, and a culti-
 “vated nature, wherever found, merits
 “regard.”

“I won’t quarrel with you (returned
 “she, with a sneer). — Men will argue

"like men. — A pretty face goes far,
"and levels all distinction."

"By no means (said I, it was a point,
"Harry, that deserved to be laboured),
"there is not a lady of you all that is
"more tenacious of what belongs to her
"character than I would be for her:
"I would be the last person to recom-
"mend an unfuitable companion to ac-
"company her to the drawing-room, or
"any other place calculated merely for
"the resort of fortune's favourites; — but
"I can never bring myself to allow that
"such a person as Patty, unassuming,
"grateful, and finely accomplished, tho'
"only a milliner, or, as your Lady-
"ship, by way of aggravation, styled her,
"only a journey-woman milliner, is an
"unworthy *tête-à-tête* for a duchess."
"Let us have tea, Sarah, said she (cast-
"ing a disdainful look at your friend), and
"another subject."

"O woman,

"O woman! lovely woman! Nature made you,
 "To temper man! We had been brutes without
 "you."

Their power is, indeed, most wonderful with respect to us. — Why then will they so utterly neglect themselves? — Want of fortune, amongst the men, is not deemed so heinous, as with the ladies. We can approve merit, however shaded by misfortune. — What then can incite these gentle-hearted creatures to be so unjust and ungenerous to the suffering part of their own weak sex? For I will maintain it, that were young women (delicately bred, and compelled to be industrious) more generally encouraged and countenanced by persons in happier circumstances, it would be a cordial to their spirits, and a spur to their diligence; and not only prevent their languishing out their days in heart-felt mortification, but preserve them from falling a prey to the wicked, the cruel advantage, mankind

are too apt to take of their exposed situations.

Lord Finly has been out all day upon business relative to his deceased grandfather, and I most impatiently wait his return, to give him a part in the scene we have been engaged in.—It cuts me to the soul, that Lady Sarah has such an opportunity of triumphing.



LETTER XIII.

MISS PRICE TO MISS KENNINGTON.

OH, my dear madam! did I not tell you, that I was utterly unworthy your consideration and favour? But you will know the very worst of me before this falls into your hands; as I dare believe Lady Sarah will be far from extenuating any unfavourable circumstance that may have reached her knowledge.

I had

I had intended to write you an account of my situation this very afternoon, if I even had been spared the mortifying encounter ;—but I have this consolation, that however low my fortune may have placed me, my mind is not only uncontaminated by vice, but intirely devoid of that overbearing cruelty so peculiar to conscious superiority.

You, perhaps, smile at my mention of superiority (a condescending smile, for you must be a stranger to every ungenerous passion), and ask, to whom can you be superior ?— But you will be pleased, madam, to recollect the variety of subordination life affords : you know, by knowing me, that there are little beings ; and, permit me to inform you, there are still less degrees of littleness.—Insomuch that I am restrained from playing the tyrant (if I am restrained) by disinclination, not want of power.

I own I am greatly disconcerted by what has happened ;— not from pride, that

that were an unworthy source. We were not all born for prosperity; therefore adversity is the misfortune, not reproach, of humanity. — But her Ladyship's disposition! — Did you know how she treated me. — Sneeringly civil and exultingly cruel. — I beg your pardon, she is your near relation; — yet how little resembling!

Many incidents concurred to throw me in her way; the good woman in whose business I am fixed, happened to be absent; — the parlor required alteration, — which drove me from thence. — The shop must sooner or later have exposed me to observation, and perhaps as well now as hereafter.

A string of carriages obstructed her Ladyship's passage. — She naturally looked out to inform herself of the cause; when I, to my great mortification, caught her eye, and determined her to alight.

“So, so, fellow-traveller (said she, as she entered the shop), I find you are an

“useful member of society.—What may
 “that ribbon be a yard?—(I was con-
 “fused.)—You are not so expert at this
 “trade (continued she), as the last you
 “were engaged in.—The fine lady is
 “your talent. — You really hit off
 “the character to a miracle. But call
 “your mother, aunt,”—

“My mistress, madam, (returned I,
 “with due humility) is not at home.”

“Mistress!—Heaven defend me!—
 “(exclaimed she) And are you so low
 “as that!—Well, good-morning to
 “you, I am upon the wing, and will
 “bear your *bais mains* to Sally and his
 “Lordship.”

This is one-third of the pretty things she
 was pleased to say upon the occasion, and
 I doubt not but she has set me off to the
 best advantage.

I ought to make a thousand apologies,
 not only for forbearing to reveal my em-
 ployment to you, seeking to establish my-
 self in your friendship and confidence,—

con-

conversing with you as it were upon equal terms, but also for now presuming to write to you : but if you can forgive the former, you will not be offended by the latter : it was your request, your injunction, that I should inform you of my future residence. — Nay, you encouraged me to hope ; — that hope alas ! has lost its foundation, and I shall be all suspense and anxiety until you condescend to favour me with your final resolution respecting, Madam,

Your most obliged,

obedient servant,

M. P.



LETTER XIV.

Miss KENNINGTON to Miss PRICE.

HOW little, my dear Patty, do you know of my heart, to conceive it within the reach of mere externals. — It

was your good behaviour, your sensibility, your very many perfections, that recommended you, on our first acquaintance, to my approbation.— That approbation was improved into real affection and attachment, by a better knowledge of your disposition and sentiments.— You tell me they are unchanged ; consequently, my attachment is unshaken. Nay, I know not if the humility of your circumstances would not be highly pleasing to me, if I was not well convinced they are not natural to yourself.— There is a something beyond my penetration.— But since you wish to conceal, I will not wish to discover.

It certainly was unlucky that Lady Sarah took you at such a disadvantage.— You must not be mortified. But she did not spare you ; and what was doubly disagreeable, Mr. Fleetwood and Mr. Bradshaw saw her in her first transports of ill-natured exultation.

— 2 On

On my word Mr. Bradshaw warmly defended you. It is plain I am not the only friend your merit procured you. They took their leave before my Lord or Mr. Shugburgh returned home, and a most horrid evening I had of it.

My Lord received the unexpected information with visible astonishment; and, having paused a few moments, — “She
“ is a pretty creature, (said he) let her
“ rank in life be what it may; nor can I
“ apprehend it will be any disparage-
“ ment to our cousin Sarah to take no-
“ tice of her.”

“Disparagement! (cried Mr. Shugburgh) “Who could be disparaged by caring so valuable a young person. She
“ shall not want a friend, or protector, if
“ she will accept of me in either cha-
“ racter. I can stand the shocks of rail-
“ lery, and the sneers of malevolence.—
“ I know not (added he, with the utmost
“ grace of humanity) to shrink from a
“ good cause, though all the world be-
“ side

“side were to forsake it; nor shall the
 “child of misfortune, if the child of
 “virtue, ever be deserted by me. I
 “will visit her to-morrow.”

“Most heroically, and I must beg
 “leave to add, whimsically resolved (cried
 “Lady Sarah): but I hope, sir, your
 “tenderness will not so far mislead you,
 “as to incite you to attempt introduc-
 “ing her in this house.”—

“That article, Lady Sarah, belongs,
 “(said his Lordship rather gravely)
 “to me. Mr. Shugburgh, I am confi-
 “dent, is too well-bred to invade my
 “province; nor can it be necessary, at
 “this time of day, to teach you your
 “duty. Your inclinations are free.—I
 “never even wished to restrain them, if
 “not utterly extravagant; but I do insist
 “upon it, that Sally is likewise allow-
 “ed (at least under my sanction) to
 “chuse her own acquaintance, amongst
 “which number I expect her to rank
 “this most agreeable girl.”

“But”

Her

Her Ladyship swelled, pouted, and even shed tears, but my Lord was immoveable.—“ I will be obeyed, Lady Sarah (resumed he with great firmness). I have no objection to gilding the pill, but down it shall go. — You may have some new acquisition at heart,—if this will answer your purpose, let it answer mine, and it is yours.”—Holding out a note, for what sum I could not distinguish.

“ It is mine, my Lord, (said she, eagerly catching at it) and I am your’s. There is no resisting the arguments you make use of.” — His Lordship kissed her, gave me an approving nod, and peace was once more re-established.

You may, therefore, prepare yourself for an invitation, which I thus prepare you to accept, or I shall ever entertain an indifferent opinion of your sincerity. You have told me my conversation, my sentiments, are agreeable to you. — Come then and enjoy, as well as communicate,

cate, that best satisfaction of mortality,
the society of an approved and beloved
companion.

This supercilious Lady Sarah will not be an impediment to our chat, as her pride will induce her to avoid what her reason cannot but admire.

I am, &c.

S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER XV.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

AND so, my worthy Harry, you really conclude, that I am become a convert to the whining sect. I own your satire is prettily pointed, your condolence spirited, but utterly misplaced.

It is true, I admire Patty Price, fer-
 -ouly admire her: have made her the
 subject of more than one epistle, and de-

scribed her mental and corporeal loveliness in glowing terms; yet is my heart as whole and intire as when we parted.

I have a playfulness in my nature, that I am surprized to find has escaped your observation, as well as that of your brother and Lord Finly, who are most egregiously taken-in from judging of my breast by the tender propensity of their own. I humour their error; and if you are misled after this confession, you can have nothing to charge me with.

That I was concerned at her elopement, I will not deny.—Thou vile distinguisher!—Is it then a consequence that we must love when we compassionate an object?—but I was piqued at Lady Sarah's ridicule.—A strong mark, indeed.—Nay more; I defended, justified her.—Ah, pitied and applauded her.

But come, let us search this wounded man more attentively, nor suffer ourselves to mistake bruises for fractures.—Here we have him most excellently displayed in

in the following conversation, nor shall we be longer deceived.

You must first, however, understand, that I owe Finly a sort of grudge for housing me in Bob's affection. Before his arrival, how essential my presence to the young man's happiness! He could not eat; he could not laugh without Bradshaw;—but the agreeable Finly no sooner appeared, than I was considered as a kind of superior, incapable of entering into the little softnesses of their fancies; consequently was shunned and disregarded.

He received the intelligence we were fraught with from Lord Kennington, with the utmost composure. “Are you not surprised, (demanded I)?”—

“No, sir (returned he, a little testily); nor in the least degree mortified. Our knowledge of Miss Price began in mystery: you do not idly imagine, I hope, that you have now attained the unravelling. — Some secret persecu-

"tion, some great calamity, has, I
 "doubt not, compelled her to be-
 "come a wanderer; and, for her better
 "security, placed her in the circum-
 "stances Lady Sarah found her. But
 "how little does she know of herself
 "when she conceives it possible for me-
 "rit like hers to be hid. At the same
 "time that I am charmed with her hu-
 "mility (continued he, looking very
 "wise) ! I tremble for her reputation,
 "and repose : something must be done
 "to convince her of the necessity there
 "is for proceeding upon a different plan."

The short manner in which I was
 taken up by my spark, suggested a fro-
 lic.—It was evident from his whole
 behaviour that he was a proper object
 to work upon. — The *green-eyed mon-*
ster jealousy delights to prey upon the warm
 in blood. I, therefore, demanded with
 affected heat :

"And, pray sir, what step would
 "you in your great prudence recom-
 "mend ?

“ mend ? But you cannot mean to
 “ insinuate that you are more interested
 “ in her happiness than some other per-
 “ sons who would think themselves gross-
 “ ly affronted if they were to be ex-
 “ cluded from a knowledge of her situ-
 “ ation.”

“ My good friend, (said the terror-
 “ struck Bob) your warmth upon this
 “ occasion alarms me.—Surely you can-
 “ not mean ;—it would be ridiculous to
 “ disagree about a young woman whose
 “ heart may be already bestowed upon a
 “ third person.—I love you both, and
 “ shall be unspeakably hurt if you do
 “ not love one another.”

“ Thou art an honest fellow, (replied
 “ Finly, with assumed cheerfulness, but
 “ somewhat timid) Bob.—I would not
 “ hesitate to expose my life in so lovely
 “ a creature’s defence ; but am far from
 “ intending to invite your Frank to a
 “ tilting match. I own she has stolen
 “ inconceivably upon my approbation ;

“ but it would be highly chimerical, as
 “ you observe, to dispute a prize that may
 “ be equally beyond our reach : we will
 “ talk no more of it.”

This was giving edge to my satire,
 (Thou simple gudgeon, the bait is dead-
 ly)—and incited me to make him smart
 more severely.

“ Not talk of it ! ’tis well, sir, your
 “ present ease has been purchased at my
 “ expence. How finely have I suffered
 “ my most material interests to become
 “ subservient to the preservation of a lit-
 “ tle paultry tranquility !—What vile
 “ impressions may not have been given
 “ of me !”

“ *A protesting countenance !* — do not
 “ harbour disingenuous suspicions (cried
 “ he) ; I have neither attempted to com-
 “ municate ; nor has she, I dare believe,
 “ imbibed the minutest prejudice against
 “ you.”

“ If I have had more frequent opportu-
 “ nities of entertaining her than yourself,

“ I have

“ I have not less to complain of: her
 “ serious attention to every tender subject
 “ was most unkindly withheld.

“ Once, indeed, I pressed her so hard
 “ that I extorted a reply sufficient to
 “ chill every rising hope.”

“ I detest affectation (said she), there-
 “ fore will not deny but I understand your
 “ present meaning; but give me leave to
 “ ask you what idea you entertain of
 “ my intellects, if you suppose me ca-
 “ pable of being captivated by mere
 “ heroics? Our acquaintance is very
 “ young,—commenced after an extra-
 “ ordinary manner;—my appearance;
 “ but not to dwell upon every unfavour-
 “ able particular, I will, at once, in-
 “ form you that your professions, in-
 “ stead of flattering my vanity, mortify
 “ me extremely. It is derogatory to your
 “ character to make them; and to listen
 “ to them would be a reproach to mine.
 “ If it is really agreeable to you to be
 “ treated by me with friendship and un-

“ reserve, give me this one convincing
 “ proof, — forbearing henceforth to
 “ introduce so wild, so preposterous
 “ a subject.”

I was subdued. — “ You are a man
 “ of honour, Finly, (said I) and I will
 “ be satisfied, thus far, in playfulness.”
 But I was tempted to add, from real af-
 fection for his Lordship :

“ But you can never intend to unite
 “ yourself to so humble, so obscure, how-
 “ ever amiable a girl ; your family ex-
 “ pects.” —

Behold the construction !

“ O dear, Mr. Bradshaw (returned this
 “ tardy Lord) ! *my* family is infinitely
 “ indebted to you for your tender regard
 “ for their honour and dignities — (very
 “ ingeniously urged) : But, pray, do
 “ you conceive yourself to be a person
 “ of so little consequence ? — your father
 “ the representative of an ancient ho-
 “ rough, and in possession of an unen-
 “ cumbered estate of two thousand pounds
 “ a year ;

“ a year; that you may make what
 “ election you please without the least
 “ censure or clamour.”

I was hurt by his folly, and intended to have made him sensible of it; therefore replied :

“ The more considerable the distance,
 “ my Lord;”—But I had not patience to proceed; — petulance was predominant.—“ We will, however, leave the
 “ point undiscussed (said I, peevishly).
 “ —Our dispositions are so widely opposite that it would be to little purpose.—The friend and the lover is
 “ with you the same thing.”

“ True, Mr. Frank, (cried he, breaking in upon me with an air of triumph)
 “ and the warmth you have shewn upon
 “ this occasion, is an undeniable proof
 “ of your capacity to keep the characters distinct.”

We were so much unhinged by this idle altercation that the whole evening was spent at cross-purposes. Whatever

I advanced was contradicted, ridiculed, or disputed by the polite Lord Finly. I was too wise, however, to be disgusted; and was actually concerned to see him so far gone in, at best, an extravagant passion. I am too much a man of the world to overlook the inequality of their situations, and exceedingly rejoice on every account, that Bob's idol is not equally exceptionable.

As to the article of fortune, I have but little to say: Lord Kennington's estate is largely dipt; but as you are determined to remain a batchelor, your brother certainly has it in his power to indulge his inclination. — Family and fine accomplishments are sufficient.

O Patty! Patty! how unjust does this pride of the world render us! You are by no means inferior to Miss Kennington in every pleasing, every attractive qualification; — but, alas! the iron hand of Poverty has marked you for his own; and you are undoubtedly,

doubtedly, the offspring of some humble pair. — Yet is Lord Finly's heart irrecoverably gone; and I believe that minds of a similar composition with his, when once subdued, are ruined for ever.

Your happy elastic natures, that are ready to receive, yet incapable of retaining, any impression. — I cannot philosophize. — Oh thou ungracious deity! tell me what are the advantages of sight, when thou, though blind, art an infallible marks-man; whilst many with two lively, and in general penetrating eyes, are as unable to discover, as elude, thy mischievous intent."

I am, &c.

LET-



LETTER XVI.

MISS KENNINGTON TO MISS CAREY.

BELIEVE me, Dolly, you ever possessed the first place in my esteem and affection; but you have unspeakably endeared yourself to my heart by your great tenderness and generosity to my dear unfortunate mother.—She has told me all your attention, your diligence, your almost filial regard;—nor will I envy you all the noblest gratifications of humanity.—You have healed my better part: mine were merely the sufferings of pride!—But what name is sufficiently strong for the pangs she has endured!—I fly! I must fly reflections I am unable to support!

How agreeably you flatter me, that the trifling scenes I am engaged in afford you amusement.

I ex-

I expected no less from your good-nature than that you would interest yourself in Patty's concerns. She is an amazing girl,—nor can I always suppress the wildest conjectures, respecting her real character and connexions;—but as it is a folly to indulge unmeaning fancies, I will proceed with that part of her history that lies before me.

Lady Sarah having vouchsafed to inform us that she was engaged for the day, a card was dispatched with the joint approbation of my Lord and Mr. Shugborough to intreat Patty's company during her absence.

She would gladly have declined the invitation on one person's account, however eligible the other's in her most partial estimation. Policy, nevertheless, prevailed; some concessions are inevitable;—she must either endure the persecutions of foppery at little periods, or for ever exclude herself from the happy delights of friendship;—nor shall she fail

“ of

of her reward ; for I will strain a point, but before this week's termination Mr. Shugburg and I will have her one whole evening to ourselves.

Nothing can be imagined more lovely than her appearance.—Her elegance, her modesty I had long been acquainted with ; but a certain self-possession or tranquil dignity was now apparent, the significance or source of which could not be misunderstood.—We knew her for what she was, yet were unable to withdraw those favourable sentiments we imbibed at Holyhead ; nor was she in any degree ashamed of a voluntary, a worthy industry.

How contemptible does she make me appear in my own eyes ! I shrunk and was confounded in my hour of adversity ! —Habitual idleness and mean pride disinclined me to work ; but to beg, I could descend with the utmost alacrity. —The bread of dependence was the bread my servile nature could subsist upon ; and

to secure my body from labour, I have delivered up my mind to the cruel yoke of restraint.

My Lord, upon my word, his parade alarms me!—the object so charming!—his sensibility so strong!—yet it is impossible! He is at least threescore, my dear; a period very unsuitable for gallantry and intrigue.—He is in truth a very ridiculous—but I do hope, for the honour of the family and the continuation of the satisfaction I at present enjoy, that he is an inoffensive being. I am under no apprehensions for Patty's virtue; but our friendly intercourse would be totally interrupted by such an incident.

Mr. Shugburgh is surely the worthiest creature living. With all the tenderness of a father, and the benevolence of humanity, he cautioned her against the evils of life, pitied her exposed situation, and applauded her industry.

“ My

“ My fortune, (said he) my little
 “ friend (the epithet his good-nature ever
 “ bestows upon her) is not an extensive
 “ one ; yet, if Providence had blessed me
 “ with such a daughter as yourself, how
 “ happily would it have enabled me to
 “ provide for her !

“ At present, excluded as I am by my
 “ situation from every expence, the re-
 “ ceipt of my interest-money conveys no
 “ raptures to my heart : nor, such is
 “ the depravity of the world’s judgment,
 “ can I employ it agreeably to my
 “ wishes.

“ Were it possible to improve the
 “ hint, (continued he in the kindest ac-
 “ cents) Sir Richard Steele has given us
 “ of rational taste, in his amiable Beville,
 “ with what delight should I behold
 “ one of Nature’s most perfect produc-
 “ tions sheltered from every rough, every
 “ cruel blast, by only accepting (as he
 “ phrases it) a little useless ore that,
 “ however otherwise employed, could
 “ not

“ not purchase satisfactions by any means
“ adequate.”

“ And pray, Mr. Shugburgh, (de-
“ manded his Lordship, hastily) what has
“ this imaginary bugbear the World to
“ do with the tastes of particular indi-
“ viduals ?—The few Bevilles that are
“ publickly known, at least in that cha-
“ racter, is merely owing to the few In-
“ dianas : — but shew me the man,
“ or woman either, that could object to
“ your choice.”

“ Alas, my Lord (returned the good
“ creature) common opinion will be
“ gross ; the shocking appellation of
“ keeper ! —”

“ The more refined (said his Lord-
“ ship) would give it a softer epi-
“ thet.”

“ This is not the age for refinement
“ (replied Mr. Shugburgh) ; and I again
“ repeat, that the odium of Keeper and
“ Kept would be cast upon an act of the
“ most exalted benevolence.”

“ These double-natured, these amphibious animals, (said my Lord, turning to Patty) have ideas no less preposterous than their own existence; but if I might be permitted to take the lead without interruption, I could give a more just as well as beautiful likeness of men and things.”

“ I should be alarmed, my Lord, (said the worthy man) at the evil tendency of your present finesse; but for the confidence I have in Patty’s taste and principles.—They must be beyond the reach of the most subtle breath of impropriety.”

“ Your language (returned the peer, with an air of conscious superiority) is singular:—I question if you have one determinate idea.--Harkee, Shugburgh, wherein do you conceive the essence of propriety to consist?”

“ Do you, my Lord, pursue essences? (said Mr. Shugburgh, with honest disdain) I judge only of substances. It

“ is true, you have the advantage of me
 “ in point of education ; but common
 “ sense is common sense, let it fall to
 “ whose share it will ; nor are its ope-
 “ rations less strong or less beneficial
 “ in my breast than yours.”

“ Indeed, gentlemen, (said Patty, with
 “ her usual modesty and sweetness) you
 “ may spare your very critical discus-
 “ sion of a subject that I own confuses,
 “ without enlightening, my understand-
 “ ing, I remember the argument begun
 “ in benevolence, whatever might be
 “ the collateral views of its investiga-
 “ tion ; but as it can in no degree affect
 “ either my circumstances or sentiments,
 “ I would humbly intreat the conversa-
 “ tion might be somewhat more ge-
 “ neral.”

My Lord kissed the hand that was
 next him ; called many powers to witness
 he would rather die than offend her ;—
 and a less particular subject was imme-
 diately introduced.

But what think you of this right honourable coxcomb? I must out with it, Dolly, though it may become Mr. Bradshaw to give titles that I ought to discountenance. O duty! propriety! gratitude! how am I dead to your every feeling!

Indeed, my dear, I begin to apprehend that some singular scenes are preparing, in which I shall be more than a bare spectator. In what manner to conduct, or by what means extricate myself, I know not; but I hope my heart will not betray me into evil. If all is right there, I shall not fail: wit, genius, learning, are not the things most needful. The best head may become giddy, unless duly regulated and restrained by judicious principles.

Oh England! Oh my mother! shall I never see you more!



LETTER XVII.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

I Wish I could give my beloved, tho' fatirical Harry, a good account of these silly fellows; but wish in vain. All my remonstrances, my admonitions, are ineffectual; and they still remain dupes to the idle infatuation of their own bright fancies.

Lord Kennington and I took an airing this morning in the Phoenix-park; his head and heart is full of Lord Finly and his niece. — “What a charming couple, Mr. Bradshaw! (cried he in one of his foppish extasies.) You have ever beheld the girl with a favourable eye; do you think she is unqualified for a coronet?”

“She was born but a few removes, my Lord, (returned I, with a view to

“ mortify him) from the actual claim to
“ one; and but for the impediment of a
“ set of petticoats, would at this hour
“ be shouldering you out of possession.”

“ Vile suggestion! (exclaimed he)
“ Every dog should have his day, Brad-
“shaw; and surely, without vanity, my
“ sun has some hours yet to run.”

What could one say to such an old
coxcomb!

“ I suppose Lady Sarah (resumed he)
“ has told you how Patty Price is situated;
“ you young fellows, on my word, you
“ are dangerous acquaintance for her;
“ but I trust you have too much ho-
“ nour and humanity to make unwor-
“ thy attempts on so lovely a creature!”

“ I abjure the thought, my Lord (said
“ I with some warmth, in order to
“ make an impression on his shrivelled
“ heart)! for you must know, I suspect
“ —but let the event speak for us both;
“ and hope, for the sake of her reputation
“ and repose, that it will be as foreign

“ to

“to every other breast as mine.” —
 “Though, (added I, with no weak emphasis) I believe she is very capable of
 “defending the virtue she appears to love,
 “and would palpably feel the cruelty
 “and baseness of that bold wretch that
 “might affront her with proposals.”

“Ah! ah! my friend (returned his
 “empty Lordship)! this is very good
 “reason; but not one spark of love—Love
 “is a powerful deity, and frequently hur-
 “ries his votaries into strange improprieties. Have you not visited her?”

“My Lord?”

“I apprehend you, (cried he with an
 “extravagant wise look); I am impertinently
 “curious; but you must not be
 “surprised if I imagine your reserve has
 “a meaning.” —

“Your Lordship has my free consent,
 “(replied I) to put whatever construction
 “you please upon my forbearing to
 “answer a question I can by no means
 “understand.”

“ Shugburgh doats upon her (resumed
 “ his Lordship, unwilling to part with so
 “ delightful a subject); Lady Sarah and
 “ he have had many smart engagements
 “ on her account; but he has too much
 “ of the Tar in his nature to be easily
 “ conquered,—and has given her Lady-
 “ ship many rough salutes.”

The Phoenix-park is seven miles in circumference; judge then what a comfortable ride I must have of it, for I have given you the cream of our conversation.

We returned about three.—His Lordship pressed me to take a dinner with him; but Lady Sarah was an object I durst not encounter: the milliner, the journey-woman milliner, might have been brought upon the carpet, and I, perhaps, thrown too much off my guard for Bob's interest;—I, therefore, fauntered home to be out of harm's way.

Can you think it extraordinary that idleness, which is the root of evil in general, should mislead my poor unguarded steps?

steps? So far from being under a necessity to pass through Dartmouth-street, it was considerably out of my way. — I, however, strolled thither, in order to reconnoitre the milliners; but had the misfortune to find the shop unfurnished, save by one single doudy. — I therefore very politically passed carelessly on, as I was far from wishing to make a fashionable visit, which, you are sensible, is literally contriving to pay your respects to an empty house.

It is pity but Mr. Shugburgh would take Patty's case into consideration: your elderly gentlemen may do abundance of things with a good grace that we greener sparks should be hunted down for. She would have been more safely as well as judiciously situated in a family; — yet, blockhead that I am, what family could receive her, without danger to them or herself, if it consisted of husband, father, brother, son, or even a miserable male domestic?

Suppose

Suppose you, Harry, who are one of your regular still-liv'd mortals, was to take her into your house as a companion for—your sister.

The world, indeed, cannot be so well acquainted with your heart as I am; but I dare believe you incapable of every dishonourable wish, and your understanding would secure you from all legal impropriety.—No, no, it is past the time of day for you to be romantically attached.

As to Finly, he is hooked in with a witness; nor can I be answerable for consequences: he is at that age of *discretion*, when folly is the ripest and most irrestrainable; for what man of five-and-twenty would submit to be advised?

We have such daily instances of absurdities in the conduct of young fellows who have attained the eminence of twenty-one, that I am of opinion, a new regulation in the laws of our mother-country respecting minors, would be highly beneficial to the public.

By

By thirty, indeed, some little knowledge and experience may be acquired; but the boy is not in any degree shook off when the arrogant, the self-sufficient man is assumed, at the early period that now puts our youths in possession of their wills and fortunes: no other rule of choice for their intimates, than humouring their inclinations; no better view in their pursuits, than gratifying their vanity or ambition; and no worthier purpose in their hearts, than proving themselves lads of spirit, what must be the prospect of their friends?

For this end their table is overspread with delicacies to pamper the undeserving. — Hounds and horses are the grand objects of their care and attention; and ladies of the gayest and most vicious turn, alone the favourite companions of their softer hours. The modest fair ones they industriously shun. — Insipid lifeless creatures! incapable of admiring the only wit they have any idea of. — Thus they run
on

on from one scene of debauchery to another, banishing reflection by wine, and stifling remorse by irreligion,—until their fortunes and constitutions are totally destroyed; and the last bed, they can perhaps call their own, resigns them, after horror and languishment, to a miserable grave.

You have a seat in the great house of Britain. — Improve the hint this letter contains, and, believe me, you will save many families of distinction in the next generation, from sinking into oblivion. Thirty is the earliest moment a man ought to be trusted with himself, allowing full four-and-twenty years for the workings of vanity, the other half dozen for the maturing of reason.

I am, &c.

L E T



LETTER XVIII.

Miss KENNINGTON to Miss CAREY.

TO give you, my dear Dolly, an idea of the horrid surprise I this morning experienced, I transcribe the letters that occasioned it, and my reflections in due order; and bespeak your most serious attention.

Miss PRICE to Miss KENNINGTON.

“IT would be making a very ill return for the favours you have conferred upon me, were I to deny you a participation in my pleasures. Read, my dear miss, the enclosed billet-doux, and when you have lamented the power of my charms, lament also the cruel temptation to which they expose me. —Ah! a Lucrece would be no Lucrece

“ crece here ! — But do not misemploy
 “ the precious moments ! — I hate an-
 “ ticipation myself ; yet — but read,
 “ read the epistle.”

LORD KENNINGTON to Miss PRICE.

(N. B. For your information.)

“ IS it possible, my pretty sprightly
 “ creature ! that your present unworthy
 “ obscurity can sit easy upon you ? O
 “ never, never ! your heart and counte-
 “ nance cannot correspond ; but whilst
 “ the one is overspread with the most
 “ captivating smiles, the other must lan-
 “ guish, droop, and repine !

“ As for my part, sleep forsakes my
 “ pillow : to the soft pleasures of tran-
 “ quility I have long been a stranger :
 “ — the effect is natural : — the cause
 “ must be obvious.

“ Your good sense surely cannot but
 “ secure you from simple prejudices —
 “ Your face ! — oh ! let it be seen, and
 “ scandal

“ scandal itself will expire ! You are
 “ accountable to no one for your ac-
 “ tions : your relations (if you have any
 “ near ones), I am persuaded, are a pre-
 “ posterous race of mortals, whether they
 “ have basely abandoned you, or provok-
 “ ed you to renounce their authority.—
 “ You was born to command—Fortune,
 “ admiration, are so intirely your due,
 “ that I can only intreat you to assume
 “ your rights.—My estate, every faculty
 “ of my soul, shall be implicitly devoted
 “ to your will ; dispose them as you
 “ please ; they are at present my tor-
 “ ment ; but, if you will vouchsafe to
 “ employ them in your service ! how
 “ unspeakably happy will they render
 “ me !
 “ I have a sweet house and park at a
 “ small distance from Dublin ; they shall
 “ henceforth be yours. My coach shall
 “ not only convey you thither, but re-
 “ main for your use. You will find a
 “ variety of walks, little rivulets, and
 “ delightful

“delightful shades : to me it will prove a
 “Paradise, if once furnished with the
 “fairest daughter of the creation !

“Talk not of the world : its slavish
 “customs suit the groveling multitude ;
 “but you,—you must despise them.

“Think not of solitude ; nor once
 “conceive me capable of leaving you
 “one moment without an agreeable com-
 “panion.—Sally shall accompany you,
 “attend you. — Music, every elegant
 “amusement, shall await you. — Then,
 “do not hesitate ; but let to-morrow
 “morning be the commencement of my
 “happiness and your sovereignty. I shall
 “impatiently expect your answer, and
 “am,

my dear girl's most faithful admirer,

KENNINGTON.”

Miss PRICE in Continuation.

“And what answer do you think I
 “have returned ? — A proper one. — I
 “hope so, madam. They say every one
 “has

“ has an opportunity sooner or later of
 “ making their fortunes ; but that an
 “ opportunity lost is not soon regained.

“ I beg, Miss Kennington, you will
 “ be prepared to render yourself very
 “ entertaining, obedient, and twenty so-
 “ forths. — Perhaps a change of cir-
 “ cumstances may occasion a change of
 “ disposition. — Caprice, whimsy. —
 “ Well, I will torment you as little as
 “ possible, for old acquaintance sake ;
 “ but you must not be offended, my
 “ dear, if I am a little troublesome. —
 “ What a blessed scheme ! —

“ And can you mean Patty ? — why
 “ not ? — If you come to that, madam,
 “ how can my Lord ? — As to matrimony,
 “ it is a dull, heavy, phlegmatic institu-
 “ tion ; the basis of all ill. Wrang-
 “ lings and discontent would not suit
 “ me. — I shall be a nominal lady, have
 “ a substantial coach and six ; — and for
 “ the rest, you and I will settle it.

“ But, alas ! alas ! you are so demure,
 “ I know not what to think ; if you
 “ should call me harsh names, or behold
 “ me with contempt, I could never
 “ support it ; — but you will be better
 “ instructed, and I can have nothing to
 “ fear : therefore my *baïse-mains* to his
 “ lordship ; tell him I accept his terms,
 “ provided you surrender yourself as hos-
 “ tage, as the enclosed letter with his
 “ superscription will inform him — and
 “ you too, if you are wise enough to
 “ read it before you seal it ; and convey
 “ it (as I humbly intreat you will) to
 “ his toilet, — where he may peruse it
 “ at his leisure.

I am, my dear Madam,
 your obliged, and affectionate
 M. PRICE.”

But softly, my friend, — previous to the
 letter here referred to, I must present you
 with my wisdom upon the occasion.

No language can describe my grief and indignation !—A soliloquy was the consequence.

No, I will read no more : Unhappy creature, that I am ! — what will become of me ! but be assured I never will descend to such infamy !—be the companion of my Lord's !—He is a monster to propose it ! and as to her—well, well, let them rejoice in their iniquity ; and may their own consciences be their punishment !—Yet it can never be—am I awake !—Oh yes ! she is sunk to the lowest ebb of vice ; and what renders her peculiarly odious in my sight, is her attempt to reduce me to the same level. No one palliating circumstance—what an easy prey—solicited, and complying in the same instant.—No love, no confidence abused. — I am so astonished, shocked, and bewildered, I know not what to think ! So amiably reserved at Holyhead,—so admired for every valuable endowment.—Mr. Bradshaw, Lord Finly, evidently taken with her

as much as my wicked relation.—How could she ever fall so grossly from her integrity? I will never see her more.—I can never believe again.—It is a most severe and unexpected stroke!

—A pause—I will, however, see her in her most odious light: no doubt but I shall find a cure for the soft regret her loss occasions me in her answer to the vile proposals.—I accordingly opened the letter, which in my rage I had thrown aside, and read as follows:

MISS PRICE to the Earl of KENNINGTON.

“MY LORD,

“I think it my duty to put the enclosed * letter into your Lordship’s hands; and am no less shocked than concerned to find myself in the same country with so daring a rascal.

* Referring to the letter his Lordship sent her, which she takes this method to return; and rebuke his insolence, by affecting to believe it spurious.

“ Perhaps you may be able, either
“ from the stile or characters, to guess
“ the author.—Can any punishment be
“ too severe for him?—What! assume
“ a name of such distinction for no bet-
“ ter a purpose than affronting and terri-
“ fying a poor unhappy fugitive!—But
“ I will think no more of it: I know
“ my self secure of your Lordship’s ge-
“ nerous protection and favour; and
“ flatter myself they will never be for-
“ feited by any effort of malice or will-
“ ful impropriety.

“ Upon cooler consideration: Suppose
“ you was to commit the letter to the
“ flames, and let the memory of it pe-
“ rish with it; for in chastising the vil-
“ lain you would, too probably, expose
“ yourself to danger; for there is no au-
“ dacious or perfidious attempt that I
“ cannot conceive such a wretch to be
“ capable of.

“ The snare is intended less for my
“ virtue than person: he must be an ar-

“rant kidnapper, and would sell me to
“some of the plantations.

I am, my Lord,
with all due gratitude and submission,
your Lordship’s obedient servant,
M. P.”

Are you not agreeably surpris’d, my
good girl, at this turn? A thousand pound
weight has been removed by it from my
heart.—Had she proved the creature I
apprehended, how desert and forlorn this
country in my estimation! but cheared
and amused by her innocent vivacity,
my life, my happiness, will derive new
vigour; and I shall be able to subscribe
myself, as of late,

Your well-contented friend.

LET-



LETTER XIX.

Lord KENNINGTON to Mrs. BATEMAN.

MADAM,

I Am sorry to hear of your disappointment; but you may depend upon my using my best endeavours to reinstate you in your office. A lady of your merit and good-nature can never want friends; and I again repeat, you may rely upon my warmest interest.

Apropos to the subject of good nature; you remember our little fellow-voyager Patty Price, whom we were all inclined to conceive the highest opinion of.—In fact, madam, we were deceived, as to her family and connexions: — she appears to be only an industrious member of the community, at whose shop such pretty ladies as Mrs. Bateman may furnish them-

selves with abundance of becoming ornaments, as ribbons, caps, &c.

Nevertheless, I must acknowledge myself one of her very great admirers, and should rejoice in every opportunity of countenancing and serving her.

But she is the oddest creature — so wrapt up in reserves, and so apprehensive of male civility, that it is impossible to gratify the benevolent wish of my heart without your assistance.

What can be deny'd to friendship? — Observe me well. — I request you to oblige me no longer than you find your account in it.

Accommodate yourself to her humour: let her be a frequent visitant at your house, and be assured that house shall be a treasure to you. If she accepts your invitations, and I should sometimes interrupt your *tête-à-tête*, could it be offensive to either of you? — Ladies are seldom displeased at a little gallantry, especially when the gallant is a man of figure and honour.

Should

Should this proposal chime in with your inclinations, I shall expect to be favoured with a line. Your own good sense will point out the impropriety of my being known on this occasion.

I am, your humble servant,

KENNINGTON.



LETTER XX.

Mrs. BATEMAN to Lord KENNINGTON.

My LORD,

THE unexpected favour of your Lordship's letter was a cordial to my heart.—I was upon the brink of a precipice, and knew not a means of escaping.

Oblige your Lordship! Can my patron, my preserver, doubt me?—You have restored me to hope and happiness, yet condescend to solicit, where you ought and shall ever command.

I will

I will go this afternoon to the pretty creature and pay my compliments; and do flatter myself, that my abilities and industry will be both judiciously and successfully employed in your Lordship's cause.

The secret was not safer in your own breast, than it shall ever remain in that of,

My Lord,

your Lordship's most obliged, grateful,
and dutiful humble servant,

BATEMAN.

LETTER XXI.

Lord KENNINGTON to Mrs. BATEMAN.

THANKS, thanks, my dearest madam! ten thousand thanks for your agreeable acquiescence! though you cannot, at present, be aware of the difficult task you have undertaken.

I am

I am already formidable in Patty's sight. — Rank, fortune, splendor, are with her empty sounds ; nor does meanness appear to be more her birth-right than voluntary election.

Be it your business to inspire her with different sentiments : the heart that is unsusceptible of vanity and ambition, must be invincible to the nicest or most subtle attacks of gallantry. Where vanity is wanting, flattery loses its charms ; and what estimation would the unambitious set upon a necklace of diamonds ?

However, you may take it from me, no character was ever compleat : the foible, the foible discovered, and the clue is obtained. But application cannot sit easy upon a fair lady, unless the prize is sufficiently attractive. — Your patent will be made out in a few days ; and in the interim accept of the enclosed note. I will take a dish of chocolate with you in a morning or two : and

am, &c.

KENNINGTON.

P. 8.

I think it would not a little promote our business, if you was to affect a wonderful kindness for my niece: they are romantically attached to each other. Favour their interviews; they will be useful. Adieu.



LETTER XXII.

Miss PRICE to Miss KENNINGTON.

I Have had a visit, my dear madam, from Mrs. Bateman: upon my word, she is a most excellent creature! never was I treated with more tenderness and civility in my whole life.

She gently chid me for my want of confidence in her.—“To conceal your-
 “self (said she) from the gentlemen’s
 “knowledge, or even the haughty Lady
 “Sarah’s, was both natural and commend-
 “able;”

“able; but tell me, my good girl, what
 “could deter you from intrusting me.—
 “My manner is, indeed, giddy; but, I
 “hope, not overbearing or forbidding.”

I knew not well how to excuse myself :
 thus the overscrupulous are ever creating
 difficulties for themselves.

We were strangers, indeed; but the
 similarity of our sex, and her apparent
 good-nature, were undeniable motives to
 a contrary conduct. My apology, weak
 and insufficient as it was, however, meet
 with a kind reception.

“One or two concessions (said she
 “agreeably) and your peace is made.—
 “No reserves for the future.—Give me
 “the pleasure of your company at every
 “leisure interval, and let your esteem,
 “your friendship, be mine.”

I would have returned a suitable com-
 pliment; but she prevented me.—“We
 “are friends, now, (resumed she)—and
 “all past neglects shall be sunk in oblivion.
 “—When did you see your great and
 “deserved

“deserved favourite Miss Kennington ?

“We three will be all the world to each

“other ; nor shall I be happy until we

“have had a meeting in order to unite

“us.”

Could any thing be more agreeable, more acceptable in our circumstances ?

I cannot visit at your house with cordial satisfaction.—My Lord’s confident looks seem to reproach me with acting improperly ; — nor ought I to behold him even with affected toleration, though the price of friendship and happiness.

At Mrs. Bateman’s we shall be perfectly at our ease ; especially if that good Mr. Shugburgh will be of our party.—For his sake alone have I any remaining charity for the masculine gender, they so aptly resemble the beasts of prey, seeking whom they may devour.

I beg your pardon, my sweet girl ; the youth who possesses an extraordinary share of your approbation is of a very different

rent

rent species. — But, believe me, his friends are neither of them very harmless, notwithstanding the pretty colours they at present assume.

How singularly am I circumstanced? Lord Kennington intreats, and Lord Finly sighs with much the same success; — and yet, like Atalanta, I could grieve at the necessity of leaving the latter behind.

Never was man more engaging. — His heart — was not made for me; therefore I need not trouble myself to dissect it.

— A very likely story, truly, that this same figure of mine should so far bewitch his senses, that rather than not obtain the favour of my hand, he should madly comply with the horrid institution of matrimony, and be yoked for life to so unsuitable a mate!

As it is impossible for me entertain so preposterous an expectation, I hope you will allow, I ought to avoid all intercourse with so agreeable an object. With

Mr.

Mr. Bradshaw, nay, with the earl of Kennington, my heart is safe ; but I am undone if I converse too frequently with Lord Finly.

A tale pleases or displeases, derives reputation or disreputation, in great measure, from the place its relator holds in our estimation ; and I can sensibly feel the deference my treacherous ears are inclined to pay to all his arguments.—He is, indeed, my dear madam, a dangerous person, and shall be avoided. — We will seek and center all our felicity in our meeting, at Mrs. Bateman's.

I am, &c.



LETTER XIII.

Miss KENNINGTON to Miss PRICE.

A Most whimsical scene, my dear Patty, have I been engaged in.

My uncle, gay as a lark, was on the tip-toe

tip-toe of pleasing expectation all this morning, from having most luckily overlooked your cruel answer to his generous epistle.

He fetched a violent compass, in order to feel my pulse. “ Did I love retirement? Was I capable of renouncing the empty pleasures of a city, for the satisfaction of friendship?—Had I a true sense of gratitude, duty; and did I possess a single spark of benevolence? There was no request he could deny me. —Put him to the proof;—half his fortune;—a reconciliation with his greatest enemy—a pilgrimage—”

I was very sensible of his motive for these fine professions, and deemed it justifiable to take him in his own toils. It was an unpremeditated, but happy thought.

“ Your Lordship is amazingly good, (said I) to furnish me with so unhop’d for an opportunity of communicating an humble wish.”

But notwithstanding my request was the result of accident, his compliance with it was certainly predetermined, as an effectual bribe to win me to his purpose.

I tremble at my own timidity, now it is over! though, at the juncture, I was surprizingly supported. I, however, hesitated, and was unable to proceed.

“Allons! (cried he) — Now’s your time: — you have no displeasure to apprehend—”

Thus encouraged, I ventured to lift up my eyes.—“You had a brother, fir,

“ (resumed I) he was my father;—but

“ not my only parent. — How happy

“ would your Lordship render many

“ hearts, by graciously overlooking the

“ only error of his life!—and suffer-

“ ing his widow to receive the benefit

“ of the living he enjoyed,; the ad-

“ vowson of which, by his decease, de-

“ volves to your lordship.”

“ Your

“Your quickness and filial affection,
 “(replied he, uncommonly elated, as if I
 “had hit the very point) though against
 “myself, I most highly approve.—My
 “standish! be it as you desire; unless your
 “mother, henceforth my acknowledged
 “relation, chuses to sell her interest in
 “it for a handsome gratuity. That point
 “she and you must settle. Thus do I
 “resign all right and title to her during
 “her life.”

And now, Sally (putting the paper into my hands) I hope I have some claim to your indulgence?—

At this instant the door opened, and Mr. Squib presented him your unwelcome piece of satire. You may conceive, that I removed myself instantly, from the double motive of avoiding a gathering storm, and securing that independence for the best of mothers I never had the least prospect or idea, until that blessed moment, of obtaining.

My chief anxiety is now at an end. I never, Patty, felt one cruel effect of dependence myself, unaggravated by the recollection, that the tenderest relation I have upon earth, is reduced to the same miserable state.

Common calamities may be excluded when the world is shut out;—the loss of friends supported by the reflection, that a day of reunion awaits us; nay, the bed of sickness, smoothed by the hand of a *hireling*, a nurse, when the sheltering roof is the sufferer's property;—but dependence comprehends whatever the thought can reach:—The soul is, compelled to put on trammels, and assume inclinations foreign to its own dictates, at the same time that it is labouring to suppress those that are genuine: nor does the task end here.—The lips must impart the ill-dissembled language;—the eyes, the every feature, lend their assistance to cover the deceit, whilst the self-conflict is
hardly

hardly sustained ;—and the breast is torn by unutterable anguish.

Mr. Shugburgh met me in the lobby, as I was bearing off my prize. — “ I give

“ you joy, my good girl (said he).”

“ You have overheard us, then, sir ;
“ have I not reason to rejoice ?”

“ No, child ; (replied he) my infor-
“ mation extends not beyond that pretty
“ countenance ; the smiles and graces
“ with which it is now overspread, are
“ too unusual to escape observation.—
“ Why are you not as happy as deserv-
“ ing of happiness ? But may I ask you
“ the cause ?”

“ Favour me only, sir, (returned I)
“ with one half hour’s conversation, and
“ I will conceal nothing from you.”

How the benevolent creature was delighted and astonished ! I did not expose his Lordship’s base view ; therefore, in the overflowings of this valuable friend’s partiality, I had the merit of effecting this extraordinary business by the force of my

very amiable and irresistible accomplishments.

“ I was sensible the moment I beheld
“ you, (said he) that my Lord’s heart
“ must be subdued; there is no with-
“ standing such persuasive loveliness.—
“ He has, indeed, a few foibles that ob-
“ scure the virtues of his character; but
“ his nature, you find, is neither obdu-
“ rate nor unrelenting.”

I affected to acquiesce with this worthy man’s sentiment, and honoured the double mistake his own goodness led him into, respecting Lord Kennington’s virtue, and his niece’s *lovely persuasion*; and, giving him the paper, begged he would endeavour to meet with an early and safe opportunity of conveying it to England.

“ It will pay an express, (said the good
“ man); we cannot too soon relieve a
“ suffering mind; I will about it in-
“ stantly.”

My Lord’s bell was now rung in that peculiar manner that bespeaks petulance

or

er fury.—I was not without my apprehensions ;—but how were they encreased when a servant informed me that I was the person rung for !

According to Marmontel, however, my mother supported me.

Oh, my mother !—It is her cause, and I will not forsake it !—My courage again failed me, when I reached the door of the apartment. — Away, timidity ! my mother's deliverance from dependence is at stake ; and she shall find, that on such an occasion, her daughter is a heroine !

My Lord was measuring the room with discomposed steps.—Could you have pitied him ?

“ Any commands for me, sir,” (demanded I, with the utmost humility).

He bit his lips.—“ You have taken care of that paper ?” said he.

“ Undoubtedly, my Lord ; I considered it as too great a treasure for me to possess ; and therefore—”

“What has the fool done?”—cried he pettishly. “I put it into Mr. Shug-burgh’s hands, (replied the poor Sarah) who thinks he can never sufficiently extol such noble generosity!”

“You have been very hasty; (said he) but no matter.—I beg it may go no further at present.”

“I am sorry (returned I, with amazing courage) it is not in my power to oblige your Lordship; but Mr. Shug-burgh left me immediately on receiving it, in order to dispatch it express; and I imagine, by this time,—

He rubbed his forehead, endeavoured to force a smile.—“Your zeal is both natural and commendable; (said he) but harkee! you Sally! I beg I may tell it my own way to Lady Sarah.”

“Depend upon it, sir, (replied I, with the utmost compliance, as I found the tempest was flying away) I will never mention it to any one without your permission.” (A mental reservation in

favour

favour of you, Patty, by whose means I have obtained it.)

What a soul the man must have! — How do I despise—but soft, my pen! my dear good father was his brother! He, it is true, sunk the relation. — I will, nevertheless, spare him; therefore must conclude,

Yours, as usual,

S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER XXIV.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

STILL *harping upon my daughter!* and so Harry, you are determined to persist in the ridiculous notion of my being in love.

To be sure, as you say, it would be an ugly business, if I was to suffer my inclinations to be engaged by no-body knows who, and on so slight an acquaintance too.

But what is all this fame, that you make such a bustle about? or what avails the longest intimacy with a beloved object? I thought you had known that the blind can distinguish no more of the sun in seven succeeding years than one single instant.—I could name you several persons in your neighbourhood, who took as much time and pains to be deceived in the dispositions of their chosen brides, as you could desire,—one, four; a second, six; and a third, by much the wisest of them all, full fourteen winters:—yet never were there greater dupes; never were pairs so unequally matched.

The cause, I acknowledge, is obscure, and may, without offence to your wisdom, have escaped your observation.—Attend, therefore, the unravelling.

In a single state, both male and female have one and the same point in view, —pleasing each other. For this they dress, they study, they chat, they visit.—An agreeable object strikes our fancies; a thou-

a thousand and a thousand beauties are discovered at every renewed interview :—the ladies affect to hide :—it is our business boldly to seek occasions of drawing them out.—The invention is exercised ;—the expectation kept alive ; and the whole scene is busy and delightful.

At least this is the case, where delicacy and sensibility are not wanting.

With the insipid, the interested, &c. &c. matters are otherwise conducted ; the friends of the one, the conveniences of the other, stimulating the union.

That unhappiness should result from listlessness or selfishness, is by no means surprising ; but how shall we account for its being equally the lot of the judicious and sentimental.

This, Harry, I apprehend to be the cause.

The business at an end, a dead calm succeeds ; affection still glows in the heart, but the shew of it ceases.

Distance and reserve is exchanged for
honest

honest familiarity ; and duty usurps the place of voluntary kindness.

The man pursues his occupation with renewed vigour :—his better half will be benefited no less than himself.

But madam sees things with very different eyes.—And can you leave me for so long a period ; unmindful of my amusement ; unmindful of my capacity for amusing—My person—my conversation, are their charms diminished ?—Alas ! what gainer am I by renouncing the whole world for you !

He soothes, he flatters her for a time ; but the same dull tale, the same senseless complaints, are so frequently repeated, that, at length, his home becomes utterly distasteful to him ; which, by a different behaviour and a pleasing variety, would have been his highest happiness.

You tell me I argue upon wrong principles, when I give understanding to such a mate ; — but, believe me, Harry, your sensible women are the hardest to deal with

with of any upon earth, as they really merit much ; but require a homage that human nature cannot pay.

I love the sex, their pretty faces ; — their happy language ; — their genuine wit, their agreeable vivacity, all, all have their due weight in my estimation : — but I cannot digest the peculiarities they are subject to.

The workings of children's fancies how delightful ! their little finess — their variableness of temper, their love of power, their impatience of controul, I have frequently amused myself whole hours in observing : — nay, I can some times divert myself with the whimsical and mischievous tricks of a monkey ; — but, for the soul of me, I cannot patiently tolerate the season of discretion in either the one or the other.

Miss Kennington and Miss Price, as being freer from folly than the generality of their sex, are high in my good graces ; but Paris's task was an easy one, in comparison

parison of what I should experience, if they were to become competitors for any prize in my arbitration.

Miss Kennington and Miss Price have been the beginning and end of all my epistles since my acquaintance with them; but read them over once again, and tell me which of them fills up the largest space?— Then, if you can, persist in your infidelity; for I am resolved to honour no more nonsense with my notice.

Mrs. Bateman is for ever at my Lord Kennington's.—Something, I am persuaded, is in the wind. It is true he has served her upon an occasion of the utmost consequence to her interest;— but I think her gratitude is overstrained.— I must get footing at her house, or all will not be well.

Apropos.— There she goes for the Park;—alone too: your pardon Harry; but the opportunity is too precious to be lost.

* * *

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Just

Just returned; the walk was pleasant; the conversation highly important.

This widow is one of your very good-natured, your very obliging women, who, from not committing vice themselves, have it the more in their power to mislead the unwary.

I am sorry; no, I am very glad Patty Price has made such an acquaintance; she will have an opportunity of seeing a great deal of the world at her house; and I, perhaps, be enabled to discover her real inclinations.

Am I not a busy friendly fellow, to keep such a sharp look out for the unthankful; for I dare believe Lord Finly is so thoroughly persuaded I am his rival, that there is no service I could render him that would be acceptable.

You are satisfied with my conduct, it seems, respecting Bob.—That's my good boy; your heart is not avariciously bent; nor have you any objection to receiving a girl of merit into your family, notwithstanding

standing she will be a dead weight upon your estate.

But I believe we must get you to carry your generosity a little farther, and make overtures to my Lord; for I am so gay, and your brother so bashful,—that what the one could say would be disregarded, whilst the other would be incapable of opening his lips.

—Defend me, I say, from your soft entanglements.

Morn.

Lord Finly is in the dumps; and, according to Bob's wise sentiments, not without reason. What self-tormentors these love-sick mortals are!

Mrs. Bateman, overcome by my eloquence the other morning, promised to give me an invitation whenever Patty Price was to be next at her house; and, like a woman of honour, yesterday-noon sent me a card: Miss Kennington was likewise to be of the party. What a flame we should have had

had our young spark in, if he had been worthy to receive that piece of information!—" But your pardon, Bobby, (said " I mentally, when I read the particulars) " I must not introduce you into such " dangerous company."

" You bold fellows, (said Lord Finly, " with assumed gaiety) are never out of " your way. I cannot imagine how you " brought this matter to bear, especially " as we are neglected?—Could not you " contrive to edge us in?"

" Excuse me, fir; (returned I) let " every one thrive by his own abilities : " If I have a brazen front, you have a " tender heart;—and Bob,—why, faith, " he has no heart at all."

" You exult, fir?" said his simple Lordship, with a careless self-approving air. — " Not I, fir; (returned your " Bradshaw) I am only a little merri- " ly disposed, and am sorry it does not " hit your humour.—If you have any " commands, you may intrust me ; —

"I will faithfully execute them."

"Set a fox (said the fly Bob) to watch the geese. Hah, Finly!"

"He is your friend, Mr. Fleetwood,

(returned his Lordship most emphatical-

ly) or he would not be mine."

Is not Lord Finly a very dignified personage?

Ill-natured pleasure is not with me a natural feeling:—I, however, experienced it upon this occasion.—Down I sat, hummed a tune, "Before I was in love, oh, every month was May!" They trod on each other's toe;—I arose abruptly,—laughed,—put on my sword;—took a side-view of myself in the glass,—was perfectly satisfied, and sallied forth.

But, shall I acknowledge it, Harry;—so far from spending the happy evening I expected, I found the widow alone, and in dishabille.

She rallied me unmercifully on the awkward figure I made upon the occasion, and

and shewed me a card of excuse the ladies had sent her.—That old wife coxcomb had detained them for his own amusement ; and Finly was amply revenged, for my idle gaiety.——I most certainly deserved it,——was it my business, by officiously intruding to interrupt their felicity.

I am, Harry, much yours,
F. BRADSHAW.



LETTER XXV.

Lady SARAH KENNINGTON to Miss
TURNER.

Dear TURNER.

LAUGH if you are wise, shall be the motto of this epistle ; but how poorly shall I be capable of describing, by the dull tedious characters that fall from the pen, what deserves the utmost strength and glow of verbal representation.

The adventurer is detected ;—her affectation, her hypocrisy exposed to public view : she appears, I assure you, in no less a character than Mrs. Trueman's journey-woman.

I own I was rather infected with the ridiculous fancies of my company ; an enchanted castle, a dwarf,——and distressed damsel, would, sometimes, confusedly present themselves to my imagination ; — but the milliner's shop was beyond my utmost conception.

A crowd of carriages in Dartmouth-street opposing my passage, I was alarmed, and wished to alight ; but, casting my eyes into a shop, apprehension soon gave place to exultation : there she sat, upon her throne, surrounded with ribbons, and the whole frippery eye-traps for the vulgar, these inferior class of traders spread to allure their inferior customers.

You have seen her confused : — but this was neither your noble nor your soft confusion ; it arose from conscious meanness.

I am

I am not callous ;—a ray of pity stole upon my heart ; but instantly recollecting the state of suffering she affected to be cast into, by the Holyhead frolic, I yielded to the dictates of right reason, and triumphed in her humiliation.

Well, this preposterous scene was of short duration. —Home flew I : —she, perhaps, sought her miserable garret, to give the proud torrent vent, which was with difficulty restrained during my presence.

My father's horses are in excellent case ; but could not keep pace with my wishes and imagination. —I related every particular about a million of times in idea, between Dartmouth-street and College-green, —when, at length, I was enabled to revel in the actual and delightful talk to an unhopèd-for audience.

My Lord and Mr. Shugburgh dined at the Castle ; —Sarah and I, had been solitary companions, over a hastily-dispatch'd meal : —and I had no other expectation

at my return, than finding her, in her usual still-life, prepared to smiler or weep, as occasion might require. Judge, then, of my agreeable surprize, when the opening door presented to my view the charming Bradshaw, and inoffensive Fleetwood.

I resolved to break my intelligence upon them all at once, intermixed with a due portion of satire upon that fellow Frank, for betraying such chagrin at her abrupt departure. But as it is impossible to write the staring eyes, gaping mouths, and agitating passions of the faces I beheld, I will forbear giving you the express terms I made use of; let it suffice till we meet, that I mortified them sufficiently.

Bob, half petrified with astonishment, lost the power of utterance; — Sarah hung down her head in disconsolation; — but Bradshaw, the very recollection is hateful to me! Bradshaw was so daring as to profess the highest approbation for her, even in her fallen state, and entered
into

into a warm odious dispute relative to the fitness or unfitness of bestowing any future countenance upon her.

I could not tolerate the wretch in his perverse meanness, if my father was not as frangely infatuated ; for, notwithstanding the particulars I have mentioned, the low thing has had the artifice to impose herself upon him, for a very worthy and consequential person.

What can her pride and arrogance end in?—Being kept, I hope ; for, provided we can but wash our hands of her, no matter for the means.

An odd conceit strikes me :—if Mr. Gravity should have a month's mind to her—you know what professions he made at the tavern from whence she so genteely strayed, — it would be excellent. Your sailors are the best dupes in nature ; — and then he is such a sentimental blockhead, that her speciousness must work upon him.

I will erase Cork from the globe that is now at my elbow ;—yet, unoffending city, thy plea is just ; the cause that separated Miss Turner and me, not the place of her detention, is the proper object of my disgust : yet, be it as it may, so capricious is human nature, that I cannot be perfectly in charity even with thee, until she is restored to me.

Your sister is not the thing :—gay and entertaining, indeed ;—but without gall ;—to laugh is the only joy she is capable of tasting.—I allow it is a very eligible exercise of the mind ; but is most delightful when agreeably contrasted. The brow that never knew a frown, was not formed to command ; and your permanent grin is rather habitual than heart-felt.

I am, in all events, convinced that I shall have a very unsatisfactory time of it during your absence ; for my father's house, that was wont to be the resort of the polite, and the seat of amusement, is now become a common receptacle for trumpery
and

and rubbish; — but, depend upon it, I will not look tamely on for any considerable time: my rights and privileges shall either be restored to me, or I will bid adieu to Dublin, papa, and all papa's preposterous favourites.

You and I will take a trip to England, shew away agreeably to our own inclinations.—I have a private hoard that will answer our purpose; and we will most certainly give them the slip upon suitable provocation.

I am, &c.



LETTER XXVI.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

YOU remember, Harry, the mortified state your last accounts left me in; but no matter, we will no longer tread in such trifles.

Several days elapsed before my haughty
resentment,

repentment, respecting Lady Sarah, began in any degree to subside ;—but, at length, I condescended, with great humility, to make the first overture for revisiting at Lord Kennington's.

You need not doubt Bob's readiness to comply with so agreeable a proposal. It was, indeed, with much difficulty that I had prevailed upon him not to be outrageous at my absenting myself, notwithstanding I promised, as soon as possible, to resume my former conduct and complaisance for his convenience.

But it is proper you should be made acquainted, in the first instance, with the pains I have taken to render myself serviceable to this hot-headed Lord Finly.

You well know my favourable sentiment of Patty Price ; I was, however, almost wicked enough to wish, for the sake of Bob's friend, that some circumstance might reach my knowledge of such a nature as to disengage his affections. You will allow, Harry, that there was
more

more of baseness than love in this particular.

To this end, and in spite of your wisdom, to this end alone, I resolved to make her a private visit.

I found her *when unadorned adorned the most*.—How often must I repeat, she is a charming creature!

She received me politely; I am indebted to Lady Sarah for this compliment.

That I have some obligations to that lady I must acknowledge, as I obtained a piece of information from her, which you was so cruel as to refuse me; but could you conceive it possible to elude my vigilance?—

“Forgive, sir, (said she) if I interrupt
 “you in order to set you right, with respect to me. I shall ever remember the
 “indulgence of the company I was cast
 “in on the other side the water, with the
 “utmost gratitude, notwithstanding I
 “have dearly paid for it since my arrival in Dublin. It is true I wished to
 “conceal

“conceal myself from the knowledge of
“all the gentlemen, as their gallantry
“could no longer be an innocent amuse-
“ment for me; and their very genteel
“treatment must, of course, terminate
“with my passage.”

“That view, (continued she) was frus-
“trated; but I do hope that my situa-
“tion will not expose me to any un-
“due liberties.—My sense of propriety
“is rather quickened than diminished by
“their conversation; nor can I be easily
“imposed upon, either as to my own
“character or that of another’s. Kind-
“ness and civility will ever be grateful
“to me; but the language that exceeds
“those limits I ought not to listen to.—
“A little shop-woman, no longer your
“fellow-traveller, — do not lose sight
“of that circumstance, and you and
“I, sir, shall be on proper terms.”

What intreaties did I not use in order
to prevail upon her to forego her re-
serve; — she remained immoveable; —

bewitching

bewitching obstinacy! it operated more strongly upon my soul than all her former conduct.

Had you but seen her lovely humility, her charming adherence to her worthy resolution!—How irresistibly she confined my behaviour and expressions to the rules she thought fit to prescribe, —like me, you would have — but you are a faucy rascal; and may guess my sentiments.

I took my leave with the utmost respect, and begged her to permit me to renew my visit, even on her own hard conditions.

She politely intimated that it was requisite for her to be very tender of appearances; — gentlemen were dangerous visitors for a young woman so critically situated, —as the world was both an indefatigable and ill-natured observer; —but she would rely upon my discretion.

Thus, you perceive, I was but very little the better for my wise scheme. —What

measures Lord Finly means to pursue I know not ; but I think it is pretty clear that he will be horribly disappointed.

I wish it was possible to learn who she really is ! — Discretion, modest reserve, and amiable humility, are the gifts of nature ; but an improved understanding, refined taste, and elegant manners are, alone, the effects of a genteel and judicious education.

I have no great faith in the marvellous, in general ; but, in this particular, am more than half inclined to form great expectations. Suppose you was to enquire, — her family cannot be obscure ; or, if it is, what encouragement for young women to conduct themselves with prudence. No person on earth is so despicable but may lift themselves into consequence by a due attention to propriety ; especially, if in possession of the smallest portion of beauty or youth.

What a pretty lesson of instruction could I now deal out to a whole troop
of

of females, destitute of provision, and exposed to difficulties. Instead of over-dressing their not unengaging figures; instead of suffering their minds to be warped by giddy vanity, and inviting that attention from us that is too commonly their bane; if, like Patty,— But neither my letters nor her example can be useful to them; as the one will be confined to your perusal, the knowledge of the other to the small circle of her acquaintance.

I have miserably digressed:—however, as I told you in the beginning of my letter, I dangled Bob to Lord Kennington's, in order to throw myself once more in Patty's way, (that is really something beyond what I intended to communicate; but let it pass) not judging it convenient, (for I will finish my blundering sentence) by too quick a return upon her in Dartmouth-street, to exclude myself for ever from her sight.

My artifice, Harry, was not successful; we received, indeed, an invitation for to-

morrow evening. "A select party," said his Lordship, looking significantly. ——— I am, therefore, tempted to conclude she will be there : if I am right, it will prove an agreeable visit ; otherwise, what a sacrifice of time to dullness, folly, and insipidity !



LETTER XXVII.

MISS KENNINGTON TO MISS CAREY.

FOR once, my dear Dolly, I have had the resolution to suffer without complaint ; but I fear my heroism would have deserted me, if the calamity had been of much longer continuance : it is, however, happily past, and I now mention it merely for your amusement.

Mr. Fleetwood had in a manner forsaken us, and the uneasiness I endured is not to be described. In what could I have offended him ? from whence his disgust ? was for ever the unavailing enquiry of my heart.

But

But this morning I was most agreeably surpris'd by his coming to our house with a countenance that bespoke the softest, the kindest sentiments; nor was his absence, I am convinced, a voluntary one.

I asked after Lord Finly, for Patty's sake. His grand-father was buried only last week, and he has not yet made himself public.

My uncle has shook off his chagrin, and seems resolv'd to improve the hint Patty furnish'd him with, respecting the letter; I both honour and rejoice in his discretion.

Lady Sarah affect'd to look scornfully upon Mr. Bradshaw; but he is blest with an easy confidence and pleasing vivacity that soon charmed away her ill humour.

Fleetwood was jostled at so unfortunate a distance, as not to have it in his power to say one tender thing.—Speaking features on such an occasion are highly advantageous.

My uncle, in order to come at Lord

Finly, whose strict observance of decency he had more than once thought proper to condemn, proposed a private party for to-morrow evening.—“None but friends” (said he) will be there;” and, notwithstanding it may be inconsistent for his Lordship to shew his face at the play-house, he can have no objection to giving us his company.

The gentlemen promised to use their interest with him, and took their leave soon after.

My uncle was then pleased to enter into the merits of Lord Finly’s character and fortune, enjoining me to leave no art unpractised to hook him in. A very delicate attempt, I must confess!

I long to see Patty, to laugh over the trick she has put upon the old beaux:—yet, I wish there may not be some evil design couched under his seeming acquiescence.—I shall observe, if possible, to counterwork all his steps.

What a busy life I lead!—I am an arrant spy.

spy.—Now self, now friendship is predominant, and my vigilance is equally exercised for the one as the other.

I hope Patty will not be forgotten upon this occasion; for it was my Lord's positive opinion, that she was qualified to participate polite retirement. I know not how to lay her in, or I would drop something at dinner, by way of memorandum. You shall hear more of me to-morrow.

Morn.

Imagine me now drawn forth to the best advantage, traversing the drawing-room,—the rustling of silks—Lady Sarah, an elegant figure, but somewhat of the largest. My Lord Kennington, your servant—How I abhor unnatural smells.—His Lordship is peculiarly high-scented to-day.

Mr. Shugburgh has all the hearty substantial appearance of a country-gentleman. He is a gainer by what my Lord deems want of polish; for if his majesty wished to present his most inveterate ene-

my with a galling picture of the ease, plenty, and benevolence of this nation—let Mr. Shugburgh be the model, and that wish would be accomplished.

A coach! —The modesty of that rap tells me it must be Patty. “Bless me! “ (said I) what a pretty quaker you make! “you are an excellent copyist of the sober sect!”

“An accidental one, madam, (returned she) I had no design to assume a false appearance.”

“Miss Patty, (said my Lord) is determined not to shine with borrowed lustre, and does justice to nature, by permitting her to be viewed in her highest perfection.”

“It is plain, (returned the smiling Shugburgh) that Patty piques herself rather upon her understanding than person; but no one can charge her with neglecting the one, when she displays the other.”

Lady Sarah's countenance changed with indignation;

indignation ; but she was compelled to receive her modest salute with seeming approbation.

Another carriage with servants, in mourning ! — nay, then, they are come all together, and my uncle will be satisfied.

Patty blushed exceedingly when Lord Finly entered the room.—His eyes instantly met hers ;—he bowed respectfully, and, having returned the civilities of the company, drew his chair close to mine, in hopes to have had some conversation with the good girl.

He was disappointed in his scheme ; for my worthy uncle never ceased tormenting her with idle speeches, from the double motive of gratifying his own inclinations, and favouring Lord Finly's address to me.

It was, upon the whole, a most perverse and formal evening ; yet, as being introductory to future happy interviews, might be supported.

The gentlemen offered to set Patty home, as they had a vacant seat; my relation did not quite relish the proposal, from mean apprehensions.

Patty urged the impropriety of her accepting such an honour;—the debate ran high, when Mr. Shugburgh determined it to her intire satisfaction.

“ I will take her under my convoy
 “ (said he.) Let a coach be called; my
 “ little friend can have no objection.”

The perplexity of her countenance was instantly dispelled. — He took her hand, and bore her off triumphantly.

Lord Finly and Mr. Bradshaw could ill digest their disappointment; but prudence and necessity taught them resignation.

Good night, Dolly: — this morn began in hope! — the eve declines! it droops! it dies!

L E T-



LETTER XXIX.

Lady SARAH KENNINGTON to Miss
TURNER.

LORD Kennington has at length, my dear Miss Turner, indulged his folly completely : our drawing-room, fit for the reception of a polite emperor, was last night dedicated to the ignoble purpose of entertaining a little shop-woman.

That mean creature Sarah, was in her element ; mother's own daughter, I suppose : yet the reflection is unjust ; for, could she claim the earl of Kennington for her father, her grovelling sentiments would in that respect be unchanged.

Mr. Bradshaw appeared to uncommon advantage : — his cloaths (though that merit might be his taylor's) were elegant ; but, I'll assure you, his behaviour was odiously provoking.

Miss Patty was the queen of the com-
pany,

pany, and received their homage with that affected humility that ever covers artifice and presumption.

My father lived but by her side; Mr. Shugburgh's approbation of her was unbounded; Lordy Finly was incapable of beholding any other object, — and the handsomest, — though most ridiculous fellow in the universe, appeared only ambitious of laying his heart at her feet. — A comfortable scene, you will say, for a woman of my spirit and feelings!

I supported myself to a miracle: England! England! and Miss Turner! were the cordials I had recourse to, as occasion required.

Besides, you must understand I have formed a scheme of undermining their happiness. — I will set my father on fire: — he conceives his fine niece to be the object of Lord Finly's admiration; (being a pretty thing to admire) and will, I know, on the least intimation of the contrary, be blown into a flame.

But

But I must proceed with caution; for, should he suspect my true motive, the lot would fall upon Jonas; there would be no standing against his resentment: I propose, therefore, swimming with the stream, and, by seeming to give into their measures, totally discontent them.

Preston is not yet in charity with that wench for her complaint against Squib: I shall have her assistance upon every occasion to humble Miss Patty; nor has she received that great impression of the sweetness and goodness of Sarah's disposition, as might have been expected.—The wise, say the French, understand half a word.

Had your sister been any other sort of woman than she is, she might have been useful;—but I believe it will be most prudent to keep clear of such a confidant; for my father is all in all with her, for reasons, I suppose, you are not unacquainted with.

She made us a short visit yesterday morning; their behaviour was very mys-

terions ; whispers, nods, thanks, and promises, were distinguishable. I hope she will not, out of a profusion of gratitude, become my mother-in-law.

I have lost my accustomed penetration. I was, at one period of my life, a most dangerous observer.—The remotest intimation, a frown, a smile, nay, a flirt of the fan, was sufficient to put me upon the scent ; and I never failed to be successful in my pursuits.

But my faculties are impaired of late, inasmuch, that I have but one degree more susceptibility than a down-right idiot.

I do not make the application ; but I was dipping into an author the other day, who told me “ That love is so whimsical a passion, that it inspires those with wit that never had any before ; and deprives those of it, who usually possessed it.”

The change in me is singular ;—but I am far from being an absolute votary to the passion :—mine is only a little kind of a smattering inclination ;—though that, indeed,

indeed, may be owing to the cold water Bradshaw was pleased to throw on it in its infancy.

Well, I have this comfort still, that if we cannot be friends, we will be enemies; and, if I am to be neglected and despised, I will endeavour to render myself properly deserving. I am, &c.



LETTER XXX.

MISS PRICE TO MISS KENNINGTON.

WHY will you not, my dear madam, be convinced of the danger I expose myself to, in visiting at your house?—What I so much dreaded has come to pass, encountering Lord Finly. Who can be insensible to his merit?—My heart, alas! is but too, too susceptible.

How came you not to prepare me? I had then avoided that treacherous confusion his sudden appearance threw me into. Did you, could he perceive it? If so, I am more than ever undone. You

You know how assiduous he was to speak to me; and it must be as evident that I made it my whole study to prevent his having an opportunity; but it will be impossible to persist in such unnatural behaviour; my curiosity, my inclination will certainly betray me; and the consequence must be fatal to my repose and convenience.

I own I honour his Lordship exceedingly for one part of his conduct; he is well acquainted with my situation; no one need be at a loss for an introduction at a public shop; yet he is so polite, so generous as to affect ignorance of what he supposes I should have no pleasure in revealing:—What his views or intention may be, are beyond my utmost penetration.

Thou foolish girl,—instead of seeking to discover the cause, it is incumbent upon thee to suppress the effect: thy reputation depends upon an entire stop being put to every tender proceeding; and whatever it costs thee, that must be preserved.

It

It is too true, Miss Kennington; nor do I know any method so probable or eligible, as your taking upon you to convince his Lordship how unbenefitting the distinction he now honours me with, to my circumstances; and I have no doubt but you would deliver me from every future mortification.

Mr. Bradshaw's visit would have been a sufficient foundation for scandal, if I had not been well known by the good woman I am now with.

After all, it is a misfortune that gentlemen will not consider the advantage and satisfactions of those they profess to admire:—but, no; the compliment of their admiration is a recompence for every evil; the world's censure, neglect of friends, and the unhappy impression left upon a youthful heart.

Will you meet me on Tuesday at Mrs. Bateman's?—Let us enjoy ourselves for one day, and leave futurity to its own workings.

Lord Finly is much thinner than he

was;

was ; or his dress makes him appear so.—
What a noble countenance !—

I am astonished that he can descend to bestow any consideration on me, when so deserving, so suitable an object as Miss Kennington is placed before him.

I will be honest ; had I twenty thousand pounds and Lord Finly not one shilling, (and his accomplishments the same) I should think it well laid out in the purchase of his heart ; but, circumstanced as I now am, it would unspeakably rejoice me to see my friend united to such merit and fortune, as neither the one nor the other is every day attainable.

You tell me my finest relative to your uncle diverts you ; I am glad of it.

Had I flounced and bounced, as your over-virtuous ladies make a point of doing on the slightest indignity, I must have entirely broke with your family ; instead of which his Lordship is as gracious, tho' not quite so *degagée* as usual, and our intercourse is highly agreeable to him.

Yet

Yet am I not a stupid wretch, to prefer the mean condition I was born in, to splendor so *reputably* acquired?

It is true, Patty, we have seen how you have acted with respect to a proposal that could flatter only your ambition; had your heart been touched, there had been a few more words to the bargain.

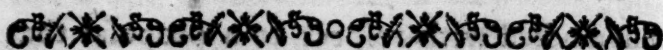
Hear me, madam; this was ever my opinion of prostitution, that the soul has nothing to do with it: the senses once depraved, and all is over; for the woman who is capable of loving a man for his person or estate, and merely to secure the one or the other meets him at the altar, knows no more of chastity than a Hottentot.

Let me intreat you once more to consider what can be done to deliver me from this dangerous state:—in the second person we can say abundance of things, much more to the purpose than when the case is actually our own.

Feel for me, think for me; but, above

all

all things continue me a place in your affection and friendship, and you shall ever find me most gratefully
Yours.



LETTER XXXI.

From the Same to the Same.

SAVE, save me, dear madam ! from becoming a prey to the temptation that is now cast before me : ambition, vanity, self-consideration, under the false colourings of love, most powerfully agitate me. The offer of baseness requires only to be heard, to be refused ; but such noble disinterestedness demands a return in some measure adequate.

Lord Finly, by disdaining to disguise his sentiment, has taught me how I ought to act ; had his attachment been more extravagant, perhaps his fate had been less happy. Dazzled by the greatness of his generosity, my view might not have extended
beyond

beyond the present moment, and when time had restored us both to reflection, our peace had been irreparably undone. This shop, that now sits so heavy upon his heart, shall never prove a blot in his escutcheon.—But, that my language may be intelligible to you, read the enclosed letter from his Lordship (which he sent to Mrs. Trueman's immediately before his meeting me at your house, though she forgot to give it me until this morning) and favour me with your opinion of it.

Lord FINLY to Miss PRICE.

“MADAM,

“I BEG leave to assure you, with
 “the utmost sincerity, that I have the
 “highest respect for the merits of your
 “character; as a proof of which I will
 “venture to lay my whole heart before
 “you to be scrutinized at your will.

“When I first beheld you at Holyhead
 “I was struck with your appearance; the
 “beauty, the decency of your person, your
 “language, your circumstances, all con-

“ inspired to convey the most favourable im-
 “ pression of you to the heart.

“ My heart not only received but re-
 “ tained that impression : your subsequent
 “ conversation, your sentiments, have
 “ abundantly improved it ; can you then
 “ be surprised at its operations ?

“ I will not deny but I flattered myself
 “ that your birth, agreeable to the idle
 “ judgment of the world, was little infe-
 “ rior to my own ; and resolved that you
 “ alone should be the object of my pur-
 “ suit and tender approbation. You may
 “ remember I hinted something of the
 “ kind to you at Holyhead ; but you com-
 “ manded my silence, and was obeyed.

“ I hoped on our disembarkation, or, at
 “ at least, as soon as I had paid my last
 “ duties to my grand-father, to have in-
 “ formed myself of your family and con-
 “ nexions, when my honourable inten-
 “ tions should have been made public ;
 “ for however small your fortune, I should
 “ have been properly sensible of the pre-
 “ sent of your hand. “ But

“ But how was I shocked to hear of
 “ your situation: indeed, my sweet girl,
 “ it was wrong to expose yourself in a
 “ shop; no creature can behold you
 “ without surprize and curiosity; and,
 “ consequently, will make that surprize
 “ the subject of their conversation.

“ The endowments you possess quali-
 “ fy you to shine in the highest rank. I
 “ have not one apprehension of your not
 “ acquiting yourself gracefully; but I
 “ am so weak as to be hurt by the re-
 “ proach of that shop and counter, behind
 “ which you have so unhappily placed
 “ yourself.

“ Quit, oh, I conjure you, quit that
 “ hateful place!—put yourself under the
 “ protection of some friend you can con-
 “ fide in, and permit me to address you,
 “ only by letter for one six weeks, and
 “ then consent to live abroad and be-
 “ come mine for ever.

“ That terrible masculine woman Lady
 “ Sarah compels me to make this pro-
 “ posal;

“ posal; she would cruelly hunt you with
“ satire and ridicule wheresoever you ap-
“ peared; and, in spite of my best en-
“ deavours to promote, destroy your hap-
“ pinefs.

“ A few years travelling, change of cli-
“ mate, and increase of age, would wear
“ you out of their knowledge; we would
“ then return to England, and live agree-
“ able to our own inclinations.

“ How shall I persuade you that it is
“ merely for your peace-sake that I would
“ banish myself from my native country. I
“ have told you I am weak, I repeat the
“ acknowledgement; but my suscepti-
“ bility of mortification, on this occasion,
“ could be only on your account.

“ Many of your sex are finely accom-
“ plished, though born, nay bred obscure-
“ ly; and it is the privilege of ours to
“ communicate our dignity and conse-
“ quence to the woman we espouse: but
“ perhaps you, from your great humility,
“ would not so sufficiently attend to that

“ particular,

“ particular, as would be necessary to your
 “ assuming a proper confidence where you
 “ was known.

“ I am sensible of your affection for
 “ Miss Kennington ; nor do I wish you
 “ to conceal my request from her ; she
 “ is not altogether exempt from disagree-
 “ able things, and, perhaps might consent
 “ to accompany us.

“ Do not misapprehend me, she loves
 “ Fleetwood.—A woman can never err
 “ when following her husband’s fortune ;
 “ their union must be a previous step ;
 “ and the other, I think, would very na-
 “ turally follow.

“ Weigh well, my dear creature ! I
 “ beseech you weigh well, all I have said ;
 “ — and let your determination result
 “ from reason, from inclination.

“ If your affections are not already en-
 “ gaged ; if you are not particularly pre-
 “ judiced in my disfavour ; if travelling
 “ is not hateful to you, and goodness
 “ no stranger to your bosom, you must,
 “ you shall be mine. “ But

“ But renounce that shop ; in all events
 “ it will be your bane.—I should not be
 “ surpris’d if some daring fellow was to
 “ carry you off violently. Was you as well
 “ acquainted with your own perfections
 “ as I am, you would tremble for your
 “ safety, and joyfully accept of the friend-
 “ ship, tenderness, and protection of a
 “ man who wishes to live no longer than
 “ he lives to your happiness.

“ Be not disgust’d at the dullness or for-
 “ mality of this epistle ; I have endeavour’d
 “ to conform myself to that plainness and
 “ sincerity you so much affect ; and, as a
 “ proof of my desire to please you, will sup-
 “ press every rising suggestion of love and
 “ tenderness, and only subscribe myself,

“ my dear Patty’s most affectionate,
 servant, FINLY.”

Now, Miss Kennington, I once more beg your opinion.

The girl’s distract’d to reject so extraordinary, so unprecedented an offer

—That’s the very objection, madam :

the

the distance between Lord Finly and Patty Price is so immense, that it impossible to unite them.

And yet how wretched a creature I am, is not in the power of words to describe!

I could have been contented with my humble fortune, performed the business of the day with pleasure, and found a comfortable repose in the evening. — How dare I repine! — What! — Is not the Being that made me, infinitely wise!

That ever a little speciousness of behaviour, as Lady Sarah justly styled my pleasing arts, should be capable of producing this! — but I have only to beg you will kindly write my sentiments for me; I never found myself so much at a loss in my whole life.

My resolution is, however, fixed; I will neither quit my milliner's shop, nor marry Lord Finly. Some turn or other, may, perhaps, happen in my favour. — May he be happy! we were not born for each other. I am, &c.

LET-



L E T T E R XXXII.

MISS KENNINGTON to MISS PRICE.

UPON my word, Patty, I have no patience with you ;—you refine until you are quite lost. Your interest and inclination so intirely correspondent—yet you resolve to be miserable out of very obstinacy.

But do not deceive yourself ; you are acting upon a very wrong principle : the article of the shop operates more strongly upon your pride, than his Lordship's generosity upon your gratitude !

You have so much the advantage of me, in point of understanding, that I know not how to deal with you ; but be assured I would soon deliver any other person's mind from such ridiculous fetters.

Not marry him ! you deserve to be beat for your folly and meanness ! — a meanness

ness far below whatever that shop or counter could reduce you to.

I will say no more upon the subject;—only, madam, you will be pleased to do your dirty work yourself. — I am glad you are at a loss for language to expose yourself. Take back your letter, and blush to know yourself the author of such egregious nonsense. — O wisdom ! wisdom ! why didst thou forsake thy wonted favourite ! Come to me directly, at all events ;—bring some little thing out of your *shop* to cover the deceit ; and let me endeavour not only to make you sensible of, but willing to renounce your far-fetched error. Not all the snarling philosophers that ever existed would have thought of practising such self-denial ;—but, take it from me, you are no heroine :—you are only a madwoman.

What would not Lady Sarah give for such an offer from Mr. Bradshaw, tho' the case in her respect (at least during old Mr. Bradshaw's life) would be entirely reversed :

reversed :—she has the money,—the man the merit.

A trip to France, Italy, or even Germany—How does my heart bound at the bare idea of such a thing? — You, my dear girl, the companion of my happy journey!—but my peace and happiness are no concern of yours.—My uncle may sell me, sacrifice me to the most horrible of wretches :—you can be a patient spectator of my misery ; nor would accept of the finest fortune and finest gentleman in Ireland, to save yourself and friend from destruction.

You must follow your own inventions, lose the best, the most valuable of opportunities, and sigh out the remainder of your days in sorrow and regret.

I am, &c.

L E T.



LETTER XXXIII.

From the Same to the Same.

WE are undone, Patty, nothing can save us from the severest calamity.

What a careless stupid wretch! — though, indeed, I meant it for the best. — False keys may be procured; but the pocket is sacred, except from the hand of the thief.

Your letter, which in the gaiety of your heart you sent me relative to my uncle's wicked proposals, is gone, — lost; — perhaps, is fallen into his hands. — What will become of us — if Lady Sarah has got it? — Worse and worse: I must fly my country for ever!

You see, my dear, how necessary it was for you to have made a proper use of your understanding; the fault is all my own, and I will not meanly divide it.

Why did I not immediately burn so dangerous a paper, nor suffer it to rise up in judgment against me? For you must know that I unfortunately transcribed my Lord's letter to you on the back of it, before I complied with your request of laying it upon his toilet.

I have not the confidence to enquire after it; my voice, my countenance, cannot be trusted.—Advise me how to act; some mischief will be the consequence,—and I can never forgive myself for being the author of it. Write to me by the bearer, and believe me to be

most affectionately yours,

S. KENNINGTON.

END of the FIRST VOLUME.



